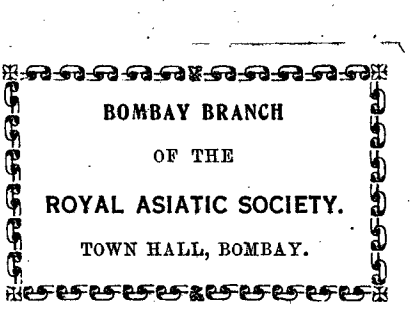
Administration Report

Central Provinces

1862-63 to 1866-67



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Report

ON THE

ADMINISTRATION

OF THE

Central Provinces,

FOR THE YEAR 1862-63. L 1866-67

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BY

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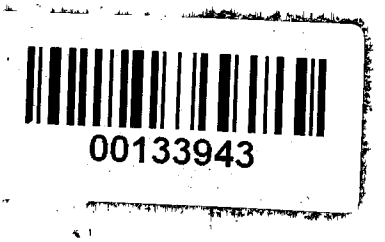
Officiating Chief Commissioner.



NAGPORE:—1864.

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ERRATA IN THE ADMINISTRATION REPORT FOR 1862/63.

In para. 13, for "Ruttungee Valley" read *Kuttungee* Valley.

„ 14, for "Nond Kings" read *Gond* Kings.

„ 19, line 13, for "dispensators" read *dispensations.*

„ 322, line 9, for "Detachment" read *Regiment.* In same line after "Infantry" read "and that Chanda, also formerly held by a Regiment of Irregular Infantry shall in future have a Detachment of Madras Native "Infantry."

„ 371, line 9, for "those of the Hyderabad," read *those of the Godavery, for Hyderabad.*

For Chapter XIII (concluding Chapter), read Chapter XV.

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CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTION.

I PROCEED to submit the second Report on the Administration of the Central Provinces. The first Report, submitted precisely one year ago, took up the narrative of affairs from the very commencement, and thus glancing over many periods past, traced the course of events up to August 1862. The present Report, relating mainly to the official year 1862-63, will yet embrace every thing of importance up to the present time of writing, that is, up to August 1863.

2. During the past year I have been able to complete the tour and circuit of all the Districts in the Central Provinces, and to pass up and down the two great Rivers, the Godavery and the Mahanuddy. Besides the official reports and other reliable evidence, I am able to affirm of my own knowledge all that has been stated in the last Report, and all that may be stated in the present Report regarding these Provinces. In order, then, to explain the sources of my knowledge of the circumstances which I have submitted, or shall submit, to the Supreme Government, it may be desirable to specify, though in the briefest terms, the several tours which have been undertaken.

The several tours and circuits,

3. The first tour, then, commenced from Jubbulpore on the 26th April 1862. Leaving that Station I travelled to Mundla, and thence to Ramnugger on the banks of the Nerbudda, thence striking across the centre of the Mundla District to Seonee, on the Trunk Road, and thence to Nagpore. Starting from Nagpore on the 4th of May, I proceeded, by way of Chindwara, to the Mohtoor Hills, and thence, marching through the Baitool District, to the Khamla and Chikulda Hills. From Chikulda, passing by direct route through Berar by Oomrawuttee, I crossed the Wurdah, and traversed its Valley, stopping at Hinghunghat

and Chanda. Thence, returning northwards, I went through the Bhundara District, as far as the Nowagaon Lake, near the Chutteesghur Frontier, and returned to Nagpore on the 12th June.

4. The second tour was undertaken on the 8th August; when, quitting Nagpore, I travelled up and down the Godavery and its affluents, from the falls of the Wurdah near Hinghunghat to Cocanada the sea-port. It was necessary to march round the Barriers, but on the intervals or "reaches" of the River the journey was accomplished in Steamers. At the Stations of Rajamundry, Dowlaishwerum, and Cocanada, which belong to the Madras Government, I received every possible assistance and information from the Authorities in respect to the traffic and navigation of the River. From this tour I returned to Nagpore on the 10th of September.

5. The third tour began on the 2nd November. From Nagpore, passing northwards through the Baitool District, I reached Hoshungabad and Hurda on the extreme western frontier. Thence, turning back, I marched up the Valley of the Nerbudda to Nursingpore, and then struck across the River northwards to Saugor and to Nowgong in Bundlecund. From Nowgong I went through the Dumoh District to Jubbulpore, and down the new road under construction to Nagpore, returning to the Head Quarters on the 21st December.

6. On the fourth tour I set out from Nagpore on the 25th January 1863 and marched to Raepore and Belaspore, the two stations of Chutteesghur, and to Ruttunpore. From Belaspore I proceeded towards Sumbulpore, passing through the waste lands of Sonekan and the country of the Gurjat Chiefs. From Sumbulpore I marched to Sonepore, on the Mahanuddy, and thence took boat for Cuttack, a District belonging to the Bengal Government, where I received every possible information from the Authorities concerning the traffic and navigation of the River, and had also the advantage of meeting the manager and the Chief Engineer of the East India Irrigation Company. From Cuttack I marched back through the Jungles to Sumbulpore, and thence up the Mahanuddy to its junction with the Sheonath in Chutteesghur. Thence crossing the Chutteesghur Plateau and visiting the large Zemindaries, I travelled back along the new road under construction to Nagpore, arriving there, on the 29th April.

7. The fifth tour commenced on the 17th May. Quitting Nagpore, I marched all over the Puchmarree Hills, and through the Chindwara and Seonee Districts, to the borders of the Mundla District, and returned to Nagpore on the 19th June.

8. These several journeys embraced every Station and District in the Central Provinces. On a variety of occasions I had the benefit of meeting almost every Native Chief, and the majority of the landholders throughout the country.

9. In the last Report a brief description was given of the country and people of the Central Provinces, and to that I have now but little to add. All that has been since seen and heard confirms what was then stated. But actual experience has drawn forth into strong relief various points which specially affect the administration, and to which a brief reference may in this place appropriately be made.

Great distances to be travelled over.

10. It appears to me then, that in these Provinces the distinguishing characteristic and the standing difficulty consist in the extent of area, vast out of all proportion to wealth and population, and in the great distances which consequently have to be traversed. If Nagpore be taken as the centre of the administrative circle, and the outer frontier of these Provinces as its circumference, then the radii to be drawn from the centre to the principal points on such supposed circumference will be vast, and will involve great distances. For instance, from Nagpore to the frontier beyond Saugor on the north-west the distance amount to 300 miles; from Nagpore to the frontier beyond Hoshungabad on the west 220 miles; from Nagpore to the frontier beyond Sumbulpore on the east 380 miles; and from Nagpore to the gorge of the Godavery at the Ghaut Mountains in the south 400 miles.

The seasons for travelling.

11. But the seasons in this part of India are not, on the whole, favourable to lengthened travelling. The autumn, owing to the prevalence of jungle fever, would be prejudicial to any one, even with the strongest constitution, who should venture to move about in the interior. Marching, therefore, cannot safely commence until the beginning of November. Then the winter is short, and the hot-weather sets in by February; and, lastly, the dry season does not last long, for the burst of the monsoon (Rains) is to be expected by the end of May. Travelling,

though difficult, is, however, practicable throughout June; and in some quarters, such as the Godavery country, if one disadvantage be balanced against another, the best time for travelling is in the midst of the rainy season. Those, therefore, who would see and know the Central Provinces in detail must be prepared to face the scorching winds of the summer and the drenching rains of the monsoon. Nor is travelling facilitated by those appliances which now exist in the more advanced parts of India. Here, as yet, there is no Railway, no Steam Communication, no Horse Carriage transit over metalled roads. The work must be generally done on horseback, save where the more precipitous Hills have to be ascended on foot.

12. A circuit of the Provinces is no chimeera, but must actually be undertaken. On every one of the frontiers there are matters of administrative concern. It does not happen that in these Territories points of interest and importance are concentrated in particular quarters, the remainder of the country being blank. Nature and circumstances have, with a severe impartiality, distributed the points of interest and importance over the whole length and breadth of the land. In one distant direction it will be the local political affairs that claim attention; in another the land tenures; in another the navigable rivers; in another the arrangements for defence and protection; in another the forests; and in another the communications through the passes.

Necessity for tours and circuits.

13. Again, these Provinces must be seen and traversed in order to be known in any adequate degree, or to be understood in an administrative sense. Maps are still deficient; but even if they existed, still, however great might be their use and value, they could never impart a sufficiently practical idea of the peculiar country. For the cardinal feature in the topography is its variety, endlessly recurring and rapidly fluctuating. The champaign country is constantly interspersed with Hills; the Forest with habitation; the Waste with culture; and the Wilderness with rivers. In some countries it happens that a traveller passing through a tract of territory will gain a good idea of the whole of it: having seen one part, he understands all. Such, however, is never the case here. A traveller passing through the very heart of these Provinces might be able to imagine no more of the country than that which was bounded by the horizon of actual sight. For instance, on journeying

down the Wurdah country to Chanda, he would see for many miles a vast garden of grain and cotton without imagining that at a short distance on the left there was an equally great belt of unculturable jungle. Again, while travelling eastward from Bhundara, he would pass through a miserable country, without fancying that on his left there was the region of Lakes and Tanks, and to his front the cultivated plains of Chutteesghur. From the Jubbulpore direction, descending towards the Nagpore country by the Pass through the Hills, he would enter a hopeless jungle, little thinking that a few miles to the left there is the beautiful Ruttungee Valley. Again, within the Hills, he might go from Seonee to Chindwara passing through a highly cultivated tract, evidently one of the granaries of the country; but it would not occur to him that this tract is an upland overhanging the southern slope of the Range, the steep sides of which are clothed with Forest, and through which the Pench River dashes in its fury. Instances might be multiplied; but enough has been said to shew that, in order to be seen, the country must be traversed, not in main lines only, but in many different directions backwards and forwards.

Remarkable varieties in the scenery.

14. It must, however, be admitted that the hills which jut into or tower over the country at so many points do present considerable advantages for mastering the topography. From such Hills the prospect gives a commanding knowledge of the physical character of the surrounding regions. Such for instance is the Sirkonda Hill near Seroncha, whence the Valley of the Godavery, the Pranheta and the Indrawutty Rivers can be seen at one sight; or the Chouraghur Hill, whence the whole Valley of the Nerbudda can be viewed stretching grandly between the parallel ranges of the Vindhya and Sautpoora Mountains, whence formerly the Nond Kings looked down over the fair kingdom they had conquered; or the Kaleebheet Hill near Mukrye, whence the Forests and the villages all along the banks of the Taptee can be discerned; or the Lappa Hill, or any of the Hills near Ruttunpore, whence the character of the great Chutteesghur Plateau, environed on all sides by Hills, can be clearly understood; or the Kohurghur Hill, where, from the fine submontane cultivation watered by the Wynegunga and its tributaries, but surrounded by Hills and Forests, can be appreciated; or, lastly, the

Views from the summits of Hills.

Choura Deo Peak, in the Puchmarree Hills, toilsomely climbed by Pilgrims, who say that from there the faint sheen of the Nerbudda can be traced on the north, and the distant horizon of the Nagpore Plains on the south.

15. Even from this slight sketch of the external aspect of the country, it will be manifest that the first great want is roads and communication, both by land and by water. Unless this need shall be supplied, all other measures of improvement, however well designed and executed, will fail, more or less, to make a real impression on the country. Of what use will it be to increase cultivation and production, unless outlets be provided for surplus produce? How can measures of intellectual and moral advancement be carried out, if Tribes and Districts are isolated from each other for want of easy and rapid intercommunication? Despite the great length of roads more or less under construction, the mind is oppressed by the sense of the distance yet remaining to be done in the way of cross roads and branch roads, after the main lines shall have been completed. Still, there is hope to be drawn from the patient energy with which the carrier-classes throughout the country toil over the unmade roads. No person could observe without admiration the hundreds of pack bullocks, laden, perhaps, with merchandize from the Eastern Coast, winding laboriously up the Hill side, steep even for foot passengers; or at night drawn up in regular squares with their loads and their drivers in the centres; or the country carts with their sharp narrow wheels sometimes jolting over the boulders, sometimes speeding at full till down the bank of a river at the risk of the driver's life, and sometimes struggling up the Hill Pass,—occasionally even lifted over the rocks, the cattle having been unyoked, and the wheels taken off for that purpose. But all this only shews how much roads are needed, and how they would be appreciated if they existed.

The want of roads.

16. The observer cannot but be struck by the richness of the soil in most parts of these Provinces, but in the Nagpore Districts especially; and also by the facilities for artificial irrigation which the contour of the country presents. Constant undulations with hollows, depressions and vallies intervening, form the leading characteristic of the Nagpore country. The streams are very numerous, and gorges or

Richness of soil and means of irrigation

basins, wonderfully suited for the construction of tanks and reservoirs, are to be seen in all directions.

Woods and Forests.

17. Another marked feature in these Provinces is the prevalence of woods and forests, which are not only situate on remote frontiers, but also extend through the very heart of these territories, closely intermingled with the cultivated districts, often adjacent to great thoroughfares, and sometimes comparatively near even to capital towns. The first rate timber has, indeed, been partially exhausted; but the quantities of second and third-rate timber are really vast. The forests, too, are found to be sparsely inhabited by Hill Tribes, and there occurs the difficulty of adequately preserving the growth of timber without unduly interfering with the dwellers in the woods, and without destroying in the wilderness the few existing traces of human habitation.

Mineral Resources.

18. In other respects, also, these Provinces are well endowed with natural wealth. Besides timber-wood and fuel, there is a fair abundance of stone, and marble, and lime; of coal and iron; of fluxes, dyes and pigments. But these resources will never be thoroughly available until communication shall be opened.

Arts and Manufactures.

19. Of arts, manufactures and industries, there is a more than ordinary deficiency throughout these Provinces. In the interior of the country skilled artisans are scarcely to be met with; even at many of the stations there is a want of indigenous masons and carpenters. Those trained workmen that may be met with are often foreigners, regularly imported. The workmen of these parts are neither industrious, nor remarkable for physical vigour. A man here will not do in a day nearly as much as a man in Northern India. The domestic architecture of the people is generally mean and poor; in the interior the cottages are miserable, and in towns the dwellings are huts rather than houses; owing to the general use of thatch for roofing, destructive fires are regarded as inevitable dispensators. Efforts are made to induce the people to substitute tiling for thatch; but there is always a difficulty in finding tile-makers. The cloth-weavers generally are a sturdy class. The humble cotton-spinners in the interior have suffered severely from the increased exportation of the raw material, and many of them have been driven to other occupations.

The people generally are quite inapt at mechanical contrivance. It is more than ordinarily difficult to teach even the traders to study or adopt machinery for the cleaning or pressing of cotton. Still the rise of wages in all branches, and the increased means of employment, (which have been as remarkable here as any where,) must, sooner or later, raise the character of the non-agricultural classes, and prepare a field for mechanical skill and industrial intelligence.

Want of education.

20. It must be admitted that the people in these Provinces are at present thoroughly uneducated. I suppose that in no part of British India could there be found a population lower or darker in this respect. There are no places of Native learning, and no learned classes. There is not one indigenous School to fifty villages. There are no educated youths any where. In many countries the Mahratta State produced classes of Brahmins, second to none in aptitude and intelligence. But in Central India our Mahratta predecessors bequeathed to us no such class to fill our public employments. Educated young men are seldom to be found on the spot, consequently the majority of our greater Offices, and even a proportion of the smaller, are held by Natives of other parts of India. Some years of educational effort must elapse before the rising generation in these Provinces can vie with their brethren in the more advanced Provinces of the empire.

Recognition of rights in the soil.

21. Another obvious and pressing need in these Provinces is the recognition and determination of proprietary title and of tenant rights in the land. This matter lies deep at the very root of all improvement in by far the largest section of society. After weary delays, it is being carried out at last. Until this shall be done the public mind will not be easy nor contented, capital will not be accumulated and applied and agriculture will not advance.

Various classes of society.

22. Among the great agricultural community the complete preservation of the upper and middle classes is, perhaps, a happy circumstance. They are, indeed, rude and uninstructed, but they exist and maintain their relative position. In many districts there is a sprinkling of what may be called a rural aristocracy. In all districts there is a middle class, a degree below the upper class, but clearly above the mass of the rustic people.

It is this class which has its representatives in almost every village throughout the country, and which will be immensely benefited by the new settlements, and hence may be derived a good omen for the future. For if this middle class can be gradually enlightened and civilized, it will serve as a lever to lift up the mass of the people from the slough of ignorance and apathy.

23. The occurrence of considerable changes within a few years is anticipated by all classes. The opening of the navigation of the Godavery, and ultimately, perhaps, of the Mahanuddy will be of vast commercial importance, and will benefit all interests in the Eastern and Southern Districts. But the change for which all persons, both European and Native, in these Provinces are hoping, is the opening of Railways from Bombay to Nagpore and Jubbulpore. It is hardly possible, at the present time, to estimate adequately the future consequences of this, whether from a moral, or political, or material point of view. Then, at last, the isolation with its attendant evils, under which Central India has languished, will cease. And it is for this event that people here are anxiously waiting, just as watchers by night look for the dawn.

Prospective consequences of the opening of the Railways.

24. The seventeen Districts into which the Provinces are apportioned, and the Divisions or Commissionerships into which the Districts are grouped, were mentioned in the Introductory Chapter of my last Report. The formation of the two additional Districts, one in the Valley of the Wurdah and one in Chutteesghur, has proved highly beneficial to the administration of those important tracts. It will probably be necessary to provide for the separate supervision of the southern part of the Mundla District, which enquiry shews to have been, heretofore, unavoidably neglected owing to its remoteness. It is found that the Hoshungabad and Baitool Districts, now attached to the Saugor Division, are too far removed from the Commissioner's control; and the re-allotment of Districts between the Commissionerships of Saugor and Jubbulpore has been for some time under discussion. The work of the Nagpore Commission proves to be so much more onerous than that of the other Commissioners, that it may become necessary to provide some additional Judicial Agency at Nagpore itself. In other respects the distribution of Districts and Divisions, as at first proposed, has worked well in practice.

Administrative Jurisdictions.

CHAPTER II.

LAW AND SYSTEM.

25. During the year under review, 1862-63, the first care of this Administration has been the introduction of Law and System. Organization is the root of administrative success. It is effected by the introduction of Acts of the Legislature, by the enforcing of attention to regulations previously overlooked, and by the elaboration of Rules for every branch of the executive system. In Provinces of a composite character, like these, special attention to the subject is essential, and the changes that have recently been made in the several Judicial Departments amount almost to revolution. Vigour of administration must largely depend on the existence of a firmly constituted and lawful base of operations, a clear series of Laws and Rules for practical guidance, and a well marked goal and standard to be attained.

Necessity of Law and System.

26. From the last Report it will have been seen that, for the congeries of territories which were formed into the Central Provinces, there were, up to the year 1862-63, a variety of Laws, Rules and Systems, each having force, more or less, in the several parts, but none having force over the whole. In other Non-regulation Provinces, even where there were no Laws, there was yet a Rule and a System clear and complete. But in the territories newly brought together under the general designation of the Central Provinces, there could be no universal procedure, no general regulation, no complete legal foundation for the conduct of affairs. At the outset, then, it is manifest that this state of things was a source of weakness and of difficulty. For several months, until a general standard could be fixed and principles enunciated, it was impossible to enforce executive order or to ensure the advance of progress. This important circumstance must, of course, affect injuriously the aggregate results of the year under report; for a great part of the year was spent in determining and declaring what the new system should be, and the remainder only of the year could be devoted to following

Absence of previous systematic uniformity.

and enforcing that system. One of the chief labours of the year, then, has been to establish the various Laws and Acts required for, or applicable to, these Provinces, and to fuse all the various Rules and Orders into one system to be observed in *all* Districts alike.

Acts and Laws actually introduced.

27. In furtherance of this object, the following Laws have been introduced and made applicable to the whole of the Central Provinces :—

(1.) Act VIII. of 1859. The Code of Civil Procedure.—This Act was introduced with certain modifications, with which it had been previously introduced into Oudh.

(2.) Act XIV. of 1859, being an Act to provide for the limitation of period within which the various kinds of Suits can be heard.

(3.) Act X. of 1862, being an Act to consolidate and amend the Law relating to Stamps.

(4.) Act XLII. of 1860, being an Act for the establishment of Courts of Small Causes, amended by Act XII. of 1861.

(5.) Act X. of 1859, as amended by Act XIV. of 1863, being an Act to amend the Law relating to the recovery of Rent.

(6.) Act XXV. of 1861. The Code of Criminal Procedure.

(7.) Act XV. of 1862, being an Act to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure, and enlarging the powers of Magistrates in Territories not subject to the General Regulations; and vesting the Judicial Commissioner singly with all the powers of a Sudder Court.

(8.) Act IX. of 1860, being an Act to make provision for the speedy determination of certain disputes between workmen engaged in Railway and other Public Works and their employers.

(9.) Section 34 of Act V. of 1861, regarding obstructions and nuisances on roads, has been specially extended to various Towns.

Application made for the extension of other Acts.

28. The extension of the following Acts to these Territories has been proposed :—Act XI. of 1863, relating to the service and execution of Civil Processes.

Act XIII. of 1859, for the punishment of breaches of contract by artificers, workmen, and labourers, in certain cases.

Act XXVI. of 1850, for improvements, Police and Conservancy in Towns and Bazars, with special reference to the City and Station of Nagpore.

The enactment of a Law, introducing into these Provinces the provisions of Act XXI. of 1856, relating to the manufacture of spirits and the sale of liquors and intoxicating drugs, has been recommended.

A similar recommendation has been made with the view of obtaining the enactment of a Law similar to Act XIX. of 1862, extending to the Provinces of Oudh certain provisions of Acts XIV. of 1843 and XXXVI. of 1855, relating to the importation and manufacture of Salt.

Act XXXI. of 1861, to regulate the manufacture of Saltpetre and the sale of Salt educed in the refinement thereof.

29. The attention of all Judicial Officers has also been drawn to the following Regulations and Acts, as being already applicable, with certain exceptions of detail, to these Provinces, and as governing important matters.

Regulations and Acts to which attention has been drawn.

Regulation X. of 1793.
XXVI. of 1793.
I. of 1793.
LV. of 1795.
III. of 1796.
VII. of 1796.
VII. of 1799.
I. of 1829.

The several Regulations noted in the margin regarding the establishment and constitution of the Courts of Ward.

Acts XXII. of 1854 and XL. of 1858, regarding the care of the Person, Property and Education of Minors.

Regulation XVII. of 1795.
II. of 1797.
VI. of 1810.
III. of 1812.
VIII. of 1814.
XX. of 1817.
VI. of 1825.

Portions of the several Regulations as noted in the margin, relating to the duties and responsibilities of Landholders and their Agents.

The Regulation VI. of 1819 regarding the establishment of Public Ferries.

Act XIX. of 1843, regarding the Registration of Deeds, together with the Punjab Rules on the same subject.

Acts I. of 1849 and VII. of 1854, regarding the disposal of persons accused of committing offences in Foreign Native States.

Acts XIV. of 1853, Sections 19 and 26, and II. of 1855, regarding evidence.

Acts III. of 1857, and I. of 1860, regarding trespasses by Cattle.

Acts XXXV. and XXXVI. of 1858, regarding Lunatics and Lunatic Asylums.

Also to the principles of Act XXI. of 1857, Sections 10 to 15, regarding Public Gaming Houses and Gambling.

Punjab Code of Principles of Civil Law.

30. In respect to substantive Law, that portion of the Punjab Code which relates to principles of Law, especially to the fundamental maxims of the Hindoo and Mahomedan Laws, as modified by Local Customs, has been prescribed for the guidance of all the Courts.

31. The result of these measures is that something approaching to a constitution has been given to the Central Provinces. It will appear that the country has become regulationized; and, indeed, as regards the Judicial Department, both Civil and Criminal, this is truly the case. Our Courts in these Provinces are bound by the Laws in all respects as much as the Courts in any part of India can possibly be. So far, then, the old distinction between the "Regulation" and "Non-Regulation" Territories is well nigh obliterated.

Executive Rules for the several Departments.

32. Of the various sets of Executive Rules in the several administrative Departments, the principal are as follows:—

I.—Judicial Department.

I.—Rules under which the Tehseeldars or Sub-Collectors are classified into Judicial grades and restricting the Judicial powers to be exercised in each grade. By these Rules Tehseeldars would ordinarily receive investiture with Judicial powers as follows:—

First Grade.—Composed of Tehseeldars who have for one year exercised the power of the 2nd grade with satisfaction to their superiors.

Civil.—Power to try and pass final judgment in suits of a value less than Rupees three hundred (£30).

Criminal.—The powers of a Subordinate Magistrate of the 2nd or 1st grade under Section 22 of Act XXV. of 1861.

Revenue.—Power to try and decide summary suits, and also regular Revenue suits of a value less than Rupees three hundred (£30).

Second Grade.—Comprising Tehseeldars other than those in the first grade.

Civil.—Power to try and pass final judgment in suits of a value less than Rupees one hundred (£10).

Criminal.—The powers of a Subordinate Magistrate of the 2nd grade under Section 22 of Act XXV. of 1861.

Revenue.—Power to investigate and report, for final orders, summary and regular Revenue suits.

2.—Rules modifying previous practice, and permitting Tehseeldars to receive petitions of plaint instituting suits triable by them in the Judicial branch of the Revenue Department.

3.—Rules regulating the cognizance of Judicial suits in the Revenue and Settlement Courts respectively. These Rules prescribe that all rights to property in land, and all questions connected with such property, shall be defined and adjudicated in the Settlement Courts. When once the fundamental definition and adjudication shall have been made, the rights will descend in the regular lines, and consequences will flow therefrom in the usual channels; and then all suits and causes relating to land will be heard in the regular Courts. In the mean time those Courts will only take cognizance of suits for rent, exaction, and the like, leaving all rights in the land to the cognizance of the Settlement Courts.

Proposed Code for the Settlement Department.

4.—A Code of Rules for the guidance of Settlement Officers, compiled from all the orders which have issued from authority since the commencement of Settlements in 1853, and comprising additional orders on every subject of importance which have been called for up to date.

5.—A Manual for the use of Honorary Magistrates.

6.—Rules in detail for the maintenance of regular Cause Lists in both Civil and Criminal Courts.

7.—Rules for holding Sessions trials at out-stations on stated dates and at regular intervals.

8.—Rules detailing the duties of Clerks of the Courts.

9.—Rules for the admission of Pleaders into the Courts of the Central Provinces.

10.—Rules to regulate the instruction of Prisoners in reading and writing, and the introduction of the good behaviour system.

11.—Rules in regard to the mode of conducting Sessions trials, or trials by Magistrates, under Section 1. of Act XV. of 1862, in English.

II.—Revenue Department.

12.—Rules for the appropriation of, and for the award of compensation for, land required for public purposes.

13.—Rules for the demarcation of Waste Lands to which no just or reasonable claim could be substantiated.

14.—Rules for the remittance of Treasure from Tehseel Treasuries in the interior of Districts, and system of account in those Treasuries.

15.—Rules for the administration of the excise on Spirits on the principle of imposing a duty at the still-head, commonly called the Sudder Distillery System.

16.—Rules for the establishing of Scale at Nagpore for the weighment of Opium, with a view to its exportation from Bombay to China.

17.—Rules for conserving and for regulating the consumption of Timber in Forests.

III.—Financial.

18.—Rules for the payment of Pensions, half-yearly, in June and December.

VI.—Educational.

19.—The Educational Scheme for the Central Provinces with detailed Rules for its introduction and execution.

20.—Rules by which the aid of all the administrative Officers of Districts, is centralized on behalf of the Central Museum at Nagpore.

21.—Rules for the examination of Candidates for public employ, and for granting Certificates of general educational proficiency, without which Public employment may not be obtained.

V.—General Department.

22.—Revised Rules for the administration of Local Funds, and the constitution of Local Committees.

23.—Rules for the administration of property in the hands of Local Committees.

24.—Rules prescribing a system of Arboriculture.

25.—Rules appointing every District Officer, ex-Officio Honorary Corresponding Member of the Agri-Horticultural Society, in order the more effectually to render official co-operation and support to that Society.

26.—Rules prescribing system of annual repairs of District Roads.

27.—Rules regarding the management of Ferries.

28.—Rules for assisting in the supply of labor and carriage, consequent on the abolition of forced labor.

29.—Rules for the introduction of Standard Weights and Measures.

30.—Rules for the examination of Civil Officers in the junior grades.

31.—Rules for the Departmental examination of Native Ministerial Officials.

32.—Rules for the better conduct of Public business in the Offices of the General Civil Administration.

33.—Rules prohibiting Sunday labor in Offices, or on Public Works.

34.—Rules in regard to the Junior Officers of Districts making tours in the interior of Districts.

35.—Rules for the better distribution of business amongst the Civil Officers in Districts.

36.—Rules in regard to improving the breed of Sheep in the Central Provinces.

37.—Ditto Horned Cattle.

38.—Rules for the observance of the provisions of the Arms Act, or Act XXXI. of 1861.

39.—Rules for the registry of Trade Statistics.

40.—Rules regarding the encouragement of Fairs.

41.—Rules regarding the constitution of Dispensary Committees in each District.

42.—Rules for the determination of the relations between the Inspector of Prisons and the Officers in charge of Jails.

33. It has seemed necessary to state separately all that has been done in respect to the establishing of Law and System, so that the whole matter might be seen at one view. In the following Chapters it will be seen how far all these Laws and Rules have affected the administration in the several Departments.

CHAPTER III.

JUDICIAL.

SECTION 1.—CIVIL JUSTICE.

34. In my last Report the substance of the Chapter on Civil Justice in 1861 and previous years was drawn from rough and diverse materials: such as the Nagpore Returns, which, being prepared for the first time, were necessarily imperfect; and the Saugor and Nerbudda

The first Judicial Report for the Central Provinces.

Returns, which were drawn up on a plan differing from the new system. The present Report will refer to the year 1862, during which the Office of Judicial Commissioner, as final appellate authority, and as Minister of Justice, had been thoroughly constituted. For this year, then, the Reports and Returns have been, more or less, systematically collated for the Central Provinces as a whole; and the Judicial Commissioner, Mr. John Strachey, has been able to present, what may be termed, the *first* Judicial Report for these Provinces.

35. The machinery for the dispensing of Civil Justice was described in my last Report. It will be sufficient here to state, in recapitulation, that there are now 47 Tehseeldars,* who reside in the interior of Districts, and try suits to the value of Rupees 300, or £30; 12 Assistant and 18 Extra Assistant Commissioners, who reside chiefly at Head Quarters of Districts, and try suits up to Rupees 5,000 (£500); and 17 Deputy Commissioners, who preside over whole Districts, and try suits without any limit of amount. The above are all Courts of Original Jurisdiction, and their Judgments are appealable. Over each Division, or Circle of Districts, there is the Appellate Court of the Commissioner. There are four Commissioners, placed at Nagpore, Raepore, Jubbulpore, and Saugor. There are two Courts of Small Causes, one at Nagpore and the other at Jubbulpore; also three Cantonment Magistrates, at the Military Stations of Kamptee, Jubbulpore, and Saugor, empowered to try Civil Suits up to Rupees 200 (£20). Their decisions are not appealable. Over all these Courts (except those of the Cantonment Magistrate's) there is the Judicial Commissioner as final Court of Appeal. His decisions, again, are appealable only to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. The aggregate number of all the Civil Judges does, on the whole, constitute a sufficient Judicial Staff for these Provinces. The principal towns and places are well provided with Civil Judges; and although in the interior of Districts, owing to the great area, the Civil Courts are few and far between, still no difficulty is felt at present, as the people in those parts are not litigious. They are not, indeed, advanced to that state of Society in which litigation would be largely generated. And the circumstance, which was mentioned in paragraph 66 of the last Report, as causing suits in the agrarian Districts to be less than might otherwise have been

* Including four Deputy Tehseeldars, who are in independent charge of Jurisdictions similar to those of Tehseeldars.

The various kinds of Civil Courts.

expected, continues to operate. On the whole, about half the cases are tried by the Tehseeldars, mostly in the interior of the Districts, and the remainder by the Deputy Commissioners and their Assistants at the Head Quarters of Districts.

36. In my last Report, referring to 1861, the total number of suits was stated in paragraph 66 to be small as compared to the population, and it was added that a moderate increase of litigation would be a good sign, as indicating the growing popularity of the Courts. Now it happened that in 1862 an increase of this nature has actually occurred. There were 18,864 suits instituted in 1862, against 15,860 in 1861; while the total number of cases brought on the file was 29,631 in 1862, against 18,601 in 1861. Again the value of property litigated amounted to Rupees 22,71,206 or £227,120 in 1862, against Rupees 11,93,332, or £119,333 in 1861. The average value of property litigated in a suit amounts in 1862 to only Rupees 86, or £8-12*s.*, which proves the litigation to be, for the most part, of a petty character. Few suits, involving large and important interests, are to be met with. This increase of litigation, which amounts to 19 per cent., has been very general in almost all Districts; but it has been especially great in Nagpore, Wurdah, Nursingpore, Hoshungabad, and Raepore, which, it may be remarked, are the great Cotton Districts.

Increase of litigation.

37. The classification of the various kinds of suits is not so complete as it ought to be, nor as it will be for 1863. But, without doubt, the great majority of the suits are for simple debt. Of these, far more occur in the towns and cities than in the villages. One important class of cases—the debts of the larger landholders are adjusted in the first instance in the Settlement Department. Here, as in other parts of India, the Landholder, well-born and well-descended, vigorous in character, but illiterate and inapt in business, gradually falls into the grasp of the money-lenders, who obtain a lien on his Estate. The manner in which such liens are adjusted will be mentioned in the Revenue Section of this Report.

Majority of suits are for simple debt.

38. Those portions of the Returns which bear upon the despatch of the aggregate of business thus indicated, do certainly show improvement.

Although in 1862, the work was much more than in 1861, the proportion that remained pending at the end was much less. At the close of 1861 the proportion of cases pending was 10 per cent., but at the close of 1862 it was only 4 per cent. For 1861 the corresponding percentages in the Punjab and Oude were 3 and 6 respectively. Another test of despatch is the average duration of suits.

The average duration of suits.

This average period has, for the whole of the Provinces, amounted to 34 days in 1862. This period will appear long when it is remembered that the corresponding period in the Punjab and Oude amounts to only 20 days. But in the Central Provinces the average is increased by reason of the large number of old and long pending cases in the late Nagpore Province and in the Sumbulpore District, all which have been recently cleared off. For the Sumbulpore District, indeed, the average duration of a suit was 225 days, which was owing to the disposal of a number of cases which had been kept pending during the disturbances. In my last Report (paragraph 69) it was stated that in some Districts many cases, from some special cause or other, had remained pending for months and even years. In reporting on the year 1862, the Judicial Commissioner, Mr. Strachey, now writes as follows :—

Final clearance of old pending cases.

"Some of the cases disposed of in 1862 had been on the file for an enormous time. In Nagpore, for example, there was a case that had been pending for more than five years in Chindwara, one that had been pending for six years." The Courts have, however, at last ridden themselves of this old incubus; and at the close of 1862 there was no case pending which had been instituted in a previous year. A rapid improvement, therefore, in the despatch of business, and, consequently, in the average duration of suits, is to be looked for. Many Courts, indeed, show an average of 20 days, and even less than that. The Judicial Commissioner considers that "there has been improvement in this respect in the great majority of Districts." Some Courts, however, show much higher averages, and further care is needed before every Court shall learn to dispose of its work with that promptitude which is due to the parties who come before it.

39. Of the total number of decisions within 1862, about 64 per cent. were in favor of Plaintiff, 12 per cent. in favor of Defendant, 12 per cent. adjusted by

Classification of decisions.

compromise, and 8 per cent. were struck off in default. So far as these proportions may be taken as a test of the quality of the Judicial work and the care taken in investigations, the Judicial Commissioner remarks, that they agree very nearly with those of Oude and the Punjab.

Proportion of costs to value of suits.

40. The average proportion of costs to value of suits has been 6 per cent., which is moderate. In my last Report, paragraph 70, I explained that the Punjab method had been adopted, whereby a fluctuating scale ensured the exact apportionment of costs to the various kinds of suits classed according to value. This has been in force for about half the year 1862. But since the introduction of the Civil Procedure Code and of the Stamp Act, there will be legal difficulty in carrying the method out. It is contemplated to apply for the introduction of Act XI. of 1863, for regulating the serving of Processes.

Applications for execution of Decrees.

41. The total nnmber of applications for execution of Decrees which came before the Courts amounted to 19,044, showing a large increase over 1861, when the number amounted to 14,638. Considering that in 1862 the total number of Decrees in favor of Plaintiff only amounted to 17,161, it is evident, from the number (19,044) of applications for execution, that decree-holders began largely in that year to sue out execution of old decrees. The circumstance is probably not unfavorable, as indicating increased facilities for obtaining enforcement of judgments.

42. The returns relating to *appeals* indicate improvement, both in the quality of the decisions of the lower Courts, and in the action of the appellate Courts themselves. The Deputy Commissioners hear appeals from the Tehseeldars, and from those of their Assistants not vested with powers. The number of appeals to Deputy Commissioners, then, fell from 1,673 in 1861 to 1,468 in 1862. The most marked decrease was in the Nagpore Division, where the number fell from 829 to 420. Considering that the number of decisions was much greater in 1862 than in 1861, this decrease is satisfactory. The appeals laid to the several Commissioners showed a slight increase, being 603 in 1862 against 569 in 1861. But the number in both years is absolutely very small. Taking the aggregate appellate business of all Courts together, the

Proportion of Appeals to Decisions.

Judicial Commissioner reports that about 10 per cent. of decisions in original cases are appealed against, and about 2½ per cent. of original orders are interfered with. If out of cases decided only one out of ten is appealed against, and if out of cases appealed only one out of four is interfered with, the general quality of the work may be inferred to be fair. Before the Deputy Commissioners the average duration of appeals was 72 days. This high average arises mainly from old cases having been cleared off. This remark is specially applicable to the Chutteesghur Division. In the Nagpore Division the average fell from 125 days in 1861 to 27 in 1862. Before the Commissioners the average duration of appeals fell in the Saugor Division from 47 days in 1861 to 27 in 1862; in the Jubbulpore Division from 47 in 1861 to 20 in 1862. In the Nagpore and Chutteesghur Divisions the Commissioners were clogged by numbers of very old cases; so their averages, though showing a commendable decrease, do yet appear, in consequence of the above stated disadvantage, to be inordinately high. In the Nagpore Division the enormous average of 291 days in 1861 was reduced to 166 in 1862. In the Chutteesghur Division the average for 1862 was 47 days. In both these Divisions the appeals instituted in these days are despatched with fair promptitude. That the old appeals have at last been really swept away is manifest from the fact that at the beginning of 1863, the oldest Appeal pending was one of July 1862, before the Commissioner of Nagpore; and in the other Divisions there was no case older than September.

Despatch of appellate business.

43. The new Rules limiting appeal appear to work well. The Judicial Commissioner writes thus upon the subject :—

"In 1861 special appeals were admitted on the merits of the case, when two or even three lower Courts had concurred in the decision. This pernicious custom was done away with in 1862 by the Officiating Chief Commissioner's instructions, and it was ordered that special appeals should only be admitted on points of Law. This has tended usefully to diminish the number of unnecessary appeals."

The limiting of appeal.

The previous orders have subsequently received the sanction of Law by the introduction of the Code of Civil Procedure, which prescribes the same rule.

44. There remain to be noticed various measures, great and small, connected with the management of the Courts.

New Code of Civil Procedure.

45. The introduction of the Code of Civil Procedure has been mentioned in the preceding paragraph 27. It did not take actual effect in these Provinces till near the close of 1862. Some little time must, therefore, elapse before an account of its working can be given. Previous to its introduction, the Punjab Code of Civil Procedure was prescribed. The Judicial Commissioner reports that, had the Courts properly attended to that Code, the subsequent application of Act VIII. of 1859 would have been easy; but that, in reality, the Courts did not attend to it. The state of things that used to prevail, and the manner in which cases used to be prepared, in these Provinces, are thus described by Mr. Strachey:—

Character of the old procedure.

"I know no more disagreeable or burdensome duty than that of wading through the papers of a case got up in the old style of the Courts of these Provinces. I have seen petitions and replies, and rejoinders, and decisions, each of them literally, not metaphorically, yards long, in a petty case of debt of a few rupees, which ought to have been settled in a few minutes with some half a dozen lines. I not unfrequently get cases consisting of huge masses of papers, from which it is almost impossible to extract a single useful fact, and which leave one at the end bewildered and disgusted. The wonder often is to me, not why cases were kept pending so long, but how, under such a system, they were ever decided at all."

New Statute of Limitation.

46. In respect to the periods of limitation (from cause of action arising) within which various kinds of suits might be brought, the Punjab Rules were ordered to take effect from 1st January 1863. The Act XIV. of 1859 on the same subject has since been introduced; it will not, however, take effect for the next two years.

The working of the Small Cause Courts.

47. Of the two Small Cause Courts which have been established within the year at Jubbulpore and Nagpore, the Jubbulpore Court has worked fairly, though it has not attracted as much business as was expected. The Nagpore Court has attracted much business, but its

working was badly managed at first; an Officer has now, however, been permanently appointed to it, and great improvement is taking place.

The recording of evidence by the hand of the Judge.

48. The method, commonly called the *viva voce* system, whereby the record of the evidence is written by the Judge with his own hand, instead of the hand of a deposition-writer, according to the old method, was mentioned in paragraph 77 of my last Report. The Judicial Commissioner now reports that it has been practically extended to all the Courts, by the introduction of the Code of Civil Procedure with the modifications ordered by Government.

49. The judicious resort to arbitration in certain kinds of cases continues to be specially enjoined on the Courts under the limitations prescribed by Law.

The elimination of issues to be tried.

50. The eliminations in each case of the issues to be tried according to the Oude Rules, is insisted upon; some difficulty is, however, experienced in inducing the Courts to attend to this properly.

The use of the Mahratta language in the Courts.

51. The use of the Mahratta language in the Courts of the Nagpore Division has been established. The majority of the Hindoostanee officials have been transferred to other districts, and their place supplied by men whose mother-tongue is Mahratta. In cases where qualified Natives could be found, they were employed. Where such could not be found, men were obtained from the Bombay Districts. But the Bombay men, though, in respect to language, tribe, origin, and associations, far more akin to the Nagpore people than the Hindoostanees could possibly be, are yet in some sense foreigners. Now, however, that education has been commenced, and that an impulse is given to educational effort by the use of the Mahratta language in the Courts, and the employment of Mahratta officials, the day may not be far distant when the educated youths of Nagpore shall justly aspire to all the high posts and offices that may exist within their own country.

New Rules framed for the admission of qualified Pleaders.

52. The expurgation of the Courts from all the unauthorized and unlicensed Pleaders and Agents has been thoroughly carried out. These persons had acquired, in Nagpore especially, a bad reputation. Upon examination they were found quite deficient in proper

professional qualifications. A new set of Rules has been promulgated, with the sanction of the Supreme Government, for the future admission of Pleaders to the Courts. These Rules comprise strict tests which will really ensure that those who are admitted shall be persons of competent education and of good character. The moving principle has been this, that on the one hand, to foster or even tolerate a class of Natives who, destitute both of sound knowledge and honest principles, would initiate those who approached our Courts in the arts of chicanery and fraud, would be to inflict an evil on the country; yet, on the other hand, to encourage and gradually to train a Native Bar of well educated and well principled men would be to secure a benefit both for Courts and for the suitors. Our anticipations may or may not be realized; but one thing is tolerably certain under these Rules, namely, that if we have a Native Bar at all, it will be a good one, and that a bad one we shall not have.

Clerks of the Court.

53. The intended vesting of the Chief Native Ministerial Officials with the definite responsibilities of a Clerk of the Court was mentioned in the 80th paragraph of my last Report. The Judicial Commissioner has set the highest example by carrying out the measure in his own Court; and many of the other Courts have done or are beginning to do the same. The progress of the reform is but gradual; and some Courts have failed to accomplish anything in this respect.

Registration of Deeds.

54. In order to encourage the registration of Deeds, additional Offices of Registry have been opened at the Tehseel Sub-divisions in the interior. But the people have not yet learnt to avail themselves of the facilities thus offered.

Investing of Native gentlemen with Judicial powers.

55. In my last Report, paragraphs 116 to 131, the expediency was explained of admitting the Native gentry in these Provinces to some share in the administration of justice. In pursuance of that principle, it is proposed to invest with judicial powers those non-official gentlemen who may be selected for their ability and character, in order that they may try causes specially relating to the customs and institutions of Native Society.

56. I shall conclude this review by quoting the words of the Judicial Commissioner. At the close of his Report, Mr. Strachey writes thus :—

Testimony to improvement in administration of Civil Justice.

"Although much remains to be done in reforming the administration of Civil justice, I believe that improvement is steadily going on; and notwithstanding the dissatisfaction which I have often expressed, I feel confident that the past year (1862) has been one of great and remarkable progress." This testimony is necessarily entitled to much weight, still, though the general aspect is promising, there remain defects;—great even beyond the average defectiveness of Indian Courts;—so that the Judicial Commissioner has but too good ground for stating in one part of his Report that some Courts (it is to be hoped they are few) "either neglect their duty, or do not know how to perform it."

Section II.—Criminal Justice.

57. The machinery of the Criminal Courts in these Provinces was mentioned in my last Report. It will suffice here to state that there are 43 Tehseeldars residing chiefly in the interior of districts, and exercising the powers of Subordinate Magistrates under the Code of Criminal Procedure; 30 Assistant and Extra Assistant Commissioners exercising the powers either of Subordinate Magistrates or of Magistrates; 17 Deputy Commissioners exercising the powers either of Magistrates, or else the superior powers under Act XV. of 1862; 3 Cantonment Magistrates; 4 Commissioners exercising the powers of Sessions Judges; and over the whole, a Judicial Commissioner having the functions of a Sudder or High Court, and the power of sanctioning capital punishment. Thus there are, in all, 98 Officers. Besides these, there are the various Honorary Magistrates.

First Report under the new system of Criminal Law, Procedure, and Police.

58. The Report by the Judicial Commissioner on the administration of Criminal justice, during the year 1862, is the first complete account that has been rendered for the Central Provinces, as a whole, under the operation of the new Penal Code, and the Criminal

Procedure prescribed by Act XXV. of 1861, and also under the operatio of the new Police system introduced with the organized Constabularyn Thus the substantive law, the procedure, the form of reporting, the Police as the right arm of the executive, are all new. The result will be examined under two divisions—*first*, the state of crime; *second*, the action of the Courts.

Increase in the Returns of Crime.

59. First, then, as to the *state of crime*, the Returns show an apparent *increase* on the whole country in almost every District, and in almost every class of crime. The aggregate of offences bailable and non-bailable was 21,967 in 1862, against 19,479 in 1861. Of this increase a part may be only apparent as resulting from improved reporting; but a part of it may be real.

Crime in the Central Provinces as compared with Northern India.

60. The Judicial Commissioner has given a Comparative Table of the principal crimes in the Central Provinces, as compared with the North-Western Provinces, the Punjab, and Oude, which may be extracted here :—

Offences reported.	Central Provinces' assumed Population. * 8,000,000.		Punjab Population. 15,000,000	Oude Population. 6,000,000	N. W. P. Population. 32,000,000
	1861.	1862.	1861.	1861.	1861.
Murder and attempted Murder ..	92	109	248	137	237
Culpable Homicide	29	29	99	57	160
Rape	31	52	146	66	...
Dacoity with Murder	5	3	7	2	11
Dacoity	45	61	11	18	20
Robbery on the Highway and elsewhere.	73	84	227	77	139
House-breaking	3,298	4,578	7,038	7,624	9,292
Theft of Cattle	1,024	1,287	7,394	1,748	6,020
Ditto ordinary	5,590	7,454	13,371	6,794	13,504
Receiving stolen property	43	181	697	257	...
Mischief by fire...	67	84	178	61	...
Total	10,307	13,922	29,416	16,841	29,388

* Exclusive of the population of various Native States, for which there are no reliable Statements of Crime.

Now this Statement is, apparently, favorable to the Central Provinces, and would go far to show that there crime is not more rife than in the Provinces of Northern India. Relatively to population, there would appear to be, in the Central Provinces, less crime than in the Punjab, considerably less than in Oude; though rather more than in the North-Western Provinces. But the comparison with the Punjab and Oude is not really so favorable to the Central Provinces as might, at first sight, appear. In the Central Provinces the people are not so strong-tempered or so high-spirited as in the Punjab. Again, the Central Provinces have, for one-third of a century, been free from those troubles and disturbances with which Oude has, up to a recent period, been afflicted. The comparison with the North-Western Provinces is by no means favorable to the Central Provinces.

Several sources of dangerous Crime in the Central Provinces.

61. I desire to explain that there are at present in these Provinces four main sources of crimes, either of an organized description, or of an overt character, dangerous to society. These are—*first*, certain bands, beyond the Saugor Frontier, living in Scindiah's dominions; these will be dispersed as soon as an old rebel named Debi Singh and his son shall be captured; *second*, Criminals connected with the wild tribes that inhabit the hills and forests of the Sautpoora Range, in the very heart of our territories,—these offenders should be checked by measures of internal repression; *third*, offenders crossing over from the Nizam's territory,—this evil is of a somewhat casual and intermittent character; *fourth*, bands of criminals on and about the Sumbulpore Frontier, led by daring and hardened leaders,—this evil has in nowise diminished as yet.

Criminal Tribes.

62. There are also three tribes in these Provinces, which, more or less, practise heinous crimes as a profession, namely, the Booreahs, the Kaikarees, and the Purdhans. Many of these have been prosecuted successfully by the Thuggee Department at various times.

Murder.

63. Of particular heads of Crime, it is to be remarked that murders are returned as 95 in 1862, against 84 in 1861. The increase, however, arises from the Sumbulpore Returns having been incorporated in 1862, and not in 1861. Otherwise there is no increase in the Provinces generally. In

the Sumbulpore District alone 13 murders occurred; and until that unhappy frontier shall be thoroughly pacified, it will continue to swell yearly our Returns of heinous crime.

Dacoity or Gang Robbery.

64. Of Dacoitees there are registered 61 in 1862, against 45 in 1861. From the table previously inserted, it will be seen that there is more Dacoity in the Central Provinces than in the Punjab and Oude and North-Western Provinces all put together; and this evil, previously so bad in the Central Provinces, has actually been increasing. It must be confessed that this is a great blot, which ought, if possible, to be removed. The increase in the crime may be partly apparent, because the nomenclature of the Penal Code (which causes all robberies in which more than (5) five men were engaged to be classed as Dacoitees,) may have caused some cases to be entered under Dacoity which would formerly have appeared under some other heading. Still I am satisfied, from special examination of the Police Records, that the majority of the cases do contain the essence of Dacoity. But after every reasonable abatement has been made, there remains an amount of genuine Dacoity which must give cause for grave anxiety. The Dacoity which we have springs mainly, if not entirely, from the four sources mentioned in the preceding paragraph 61. It may be premature to anticipate the result of the current year (1863) in this respect. But on some points improvement is beginning. Near Nagpore itself, and in the valley of the Nerbudda, and in the plain districts of Chutteesghur, the crime seems well nigh stopped. In the Saugor territory there is little or none of it; but while Debi Singh (mentioned in preceding paragraph 61) is at large, there will be a chance of audacious crimes occurring. It exists slightly in the Chanda District near the Deccan frontier, and in the districts in and about the Sautpoora Hills. In parts of the Sumbulpore frontier it actually rages. There are some outlawed dacoit leaders sheltered in certain of the Gurjat States; and some old rebels, dregs of the recent disturbances. Of late the Dacoits, taking advantage of the remoteness and inaccessibility of the border, and of the inclement season which renders prevention or pursuit almost impossible, have perpetrated many daring outrages both against life and property.

Highway Robbery.

65. Under the head of Highway Robbery there are 84 cases entered in 1862, against 78 in 1861. These cases are not, however, of a serious character. Owing

to the great length of the main lines of road, which wind through extensive belts of jungle, and pass by many desolate places, the prevention of highway robbery is difficult.

House-breaking and ordinary theft.

66. In house-breaking and ordinary theft there is an increase exhibited under the former head, 4,578 cases being set down in 1862, against 3,208 in 1861; and under the latter heading, 7,454 against 5,590. In both categories the Judicial and Police Authorities consider that the increase is only apparent, and that the Return shows not that there was more crime, but that it was better reported. It is, however, impossible to affirm anything for certain on this point. There has not, indeed, been any famine or other calamity which might cause any real increase in this class of crime. There seems to be no increase in the value of property stolen, the estimated amount being Rupees 3,34,369, or £33,436-18*s*. in 1862, against Rupees 3,75,362, or £37,536-4*s*. in 1861; and the theft continues to be of a petty character.

Cattle-stealing.

67. Under the head of cattle-stealing 1,287 cases are entered in 1862, against 1,024 in 1861. Without doubt any increase in the Return would show nothing, except that the crime was better reported; for in either case the number returned is vastly below the number that actually occurred. This is a crime, the extent of which has probably not been reached or fathomed. In those hilly districts where countless herds of cattle roam over miles and miles of grazing grounds, the cattle-stealers, chiefly belonging to the Purdhan tribe, ply their trade with system and boldness; and (perhaps it is superfluous to add) with almost perfect impunity. The owners, who mostly reside at some distance, accept the evil as inevitable, though I have heard them complain. Indeed, some enterprising landholders, who were ready to reclaim some of the rich waste lands of Mundla, told me that one difficulty would be the prevalence of the cattle-stealing. Some steps have been, and more will yet be, taken to check this crime.

The receiving of stolen property.

68. In respect to the receiving of stolen property, the cases brought to light have risen from 48 in 1861 to 181 in 1862. This real and remarkable increase is, no doubt, owing to increased Police efficiency. In this instance the inference may be drawn without the least reserve or

hesitation. There must, indeed, be many hundreds more cases of this kind in reality, and the more of them that are brought to light the better. This does indeed constitute a hopeful feature in the Police Returns. There can be no doubt that, if the Returns shall continue to show increasing numbers under *this* heading, there will, sooner or later, be a more than corresponding decrease under the head of theft and burglary.

Witchcraft in Chutteesghur.

69. The belief in witchcraft, though gradually dying out, still drives the ignorant people, in Chutteesghur, occasionally to commit horrid outrages, and even murders. Nothing but the spread of enlightenment can altogether banish this superstition.

70. In my last Report I stated that Thuggee, Infanticide, and Meriah Sacrifice no longer exist in these Provinces: further enquiry has supported this belief.

71. Having thus glanced at the state of crime, the aspect of which has more shade than light upon it, I proceed to the second point, namely, the action of the Criminal Authorities.

The trial and disposal of cases before the Criminal Courts.

72. Regarding the trial and disposal of cases, I will quote the following passages from the Judicial Commissioner's Report:—

"There was a large increase in the number of persons brought to "trial for non-bailable offences. This was the case in every Division, "and almost in every District. The number of cases rose from 2,915 "in 1861 to 4,117 in 1862, an increase of 1,202. The number of bail- "able offences for disposal was less than that of the previous year by 12, "the numbers being respectively 8,267 and 8,255. * * * * * "Altogether the number of cases brought to trial rose from 11,339 in "1861 to 12,372 in 1862, showing an actual increase of 1,033. Although "the work was much heavier, it was much better disposed of. Out of "22,556 persons brought to trial, the cases of only 195 persons were "pending at the end of the year. At the close of 1861, 449 persons, "of whom 300 were in custody, awaited trial in 134 cases. At the "close of 1862 there were 195 persons in 78 cases, and of these only "82 persons were in custody. This is very satisfactory—the more so,

" because the improvement was not confined to a few districts, but was " almost universal."

Average duration of cases.

73. In respect to the average duration of cases—that is in the time taken to dispose of trials in the Magistrate's Courts—there has been an improvement in most districts. The general average for 1862 was 11 days. In the best managed districts the average was about 9 days. In the Chutteesghur Districts there have always been long delays, which are partly to be accounted for by the great distances; but which will be lessened in future.

Release of witnesses from attendance.

74. Out of the 53,928 witnesses summoned in the year before the Criminal Courts, 50,751, or 90 per cent., were detained in attendance at Court for only one day. Only 20 persons were kept for more than seven days, and these were in Sumbulpore, where the Magistrate happened to be absent on special duty.

Relative proportions of acquittals and convictions.

75. Of the persons brought to trial in the year 1861, 67 per cent. were convicted and 33 acquitted. In the year 1862 72 per cent. were convicted and 28 acquitted. The Judicial Commissioner remarks that this is satisfactory, and that the detailed Statements show the actual improvement to have been greater than that which the general averages represent. Mr. Strachey also writes:—

"It is further satisfactory to find that it is chiefly in regard to the " more heinous offences that the percentages of convictions have increased. " I have no doubt that both the Police and the Courts have been more " careful than they used to be in ordering apprehensions and in bringing " people to trial."

Disposal of Sessions trials.

76. In my last Report, paragraph 110, I was obliged to note the extraordinary delays which had occurred in the disposal of Sessions trials in these Provinces. In serious cases eight or nine months would often elapse after a case was committed by the Magistrates before it was tried by the Judge. It is highly satisfactory to know that this can no longer be said. In the Saugor Division the average duration was 10 days; in the Jubbulpore Division 21 days. In the Chutteesghur Division, during the last six

months of the year, it was 21 days; while in the first six months it was 187 days. In the Nagpore Division it was 68 days; and the Judicial Commissioner reports that the improvement would have been greater if there had not been pending, at the beginning of the year, a number of old cases belonging to 1861. It is to be observed that the corresponding average for Oude was 20 days, and for the Punjab 27 days. Complete orders have been issued for the periodical holding of Sessions in every district according to the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Appeals before the several Commissioners.

77. The average of Criminal appeals before the Commissioners was, in the Jubbulpore Division, 10 days, and in the Saugor Division 14 days. In the Nagpore and Chutteesghur Divisions the averages were much higher, being 71 in the former—owing to old cases of 1861 having been decided. In the Chutteesghur Division for the first six months of the year, before the Division was constituted a separate charge, the average was 136; while in the last six months it was only seven days. During the latter six months of the year the averages were not inferior to the Punjab average of 14 days, and the Oude average of 18 days.

Issue of appeals and commitments to the Sessions.

78. Of the 1,091 persons sent by the Magistrates before the Courts of Session, 587 were convicted and 156 acquitted. These proportions indicate care and attention on the part of the Committing Officers. The appeals preferred to Commissioners were not very numerous—they were preferred in about four per cent. of the decisions passed. But of the cases appealed the orders in about 20 per cent. were interfered with; this proportion is not quite satisfactory, and is less favorable than the result of the commitments to the Courts of Session. Appeals to Deputy Commissioners from the decisions of their subordinates were preferred in about 3½ per cent. of those decisions. Of the cases thus appealed, the orders in 33 per cent. were interfered with. This proportion is not a good indication.

79. The general result of the commitments to the Sessions, and of the appeals before the Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners, justifies the following remark by the Judicial Commissioner:—

"Serious cases are carefully prepared, and the evidence is generally "well brought together; but in cases of a less important nature, the "Courts are too apt to conduct business in a slovenly manner."

Classification of punishments.

80. From an examination of the classification of sentences, the Judicial Commissioner justly infers that fine has been too little resorted to, and imprisonment too much preferred. The Magistrates have not made full use of the discretion allowed them by the Penal Code in respect to fine. But the sentences of imprisonment have been less severe than they used to be. The abolition of the punishment of flogging has had a powerful effect in swelling the sentences of imprisonment for short terms.

Punishment of juvenile offenders.

81. The abolition of the punishment of flogging, in the case of juvenile offenders, is thus commented on by the Judicial Commissioner in terms with which I quite agree:—

"The fact that 232 boys were imprisoned during the year, who, "under the old Law, would have been flogged and discharged, is mat- "ter for much regret. I look on such a result as purely mischievous, "and this alone would suffice to prove the necessity for fresh legislation."

Court of the Judicial Commissioner.

82. In respect to the Court of the Judicial Commissioner on the criminal side, out of 112 persons committed, only 5 were acquitted. Out of 124 cases appealed, the orders were affirmed in 114.

Appointment of Honorary Magistrates in the Central Provinces.

83. The year 1862 is signalized, by the appointment, for the first time, of Honorary Magistrates. In my last Report, paragraphs 116 to 128, there were explained the reasons which render such appointment in these Provinces peculiarly desirable. These need not be repeated. It has since, however, become apparent by experience, that, owing to the great size of districts, the presence of persons in the interior, vested with Magisterial powers, will be of much aid to the new Police System; and will save, I believe, hundreds of complainants and witnesses from long journeys to the Central Stations. Towards the close of 1862 some 46 Honorary Magistrates were appointed; and several more have been since appointed. A further list of carefully selected names, 64 in number, has just been submitted to Government. Of all these, two are Europeans, and the rest Natives. As most of those appointments are so recent, it would be premature to attempt a general Return of the work done by them. It appears, however, that up to the 1st July 1,074 cases had been decided by Honorary Magistrates.

The Court of Honorary Magistrates at Nagpore.

84. The Court of Honorary Magistrates at Nagpore has been specially constituted, and may deserve mention. It now consists of 14 Members, representing all the influential classes of the Native community. Of the 14, there are six representing the Bhonsla family; one is the representative of the Gond Rajahs; two are leading Bankers; two are among the principal Mahomedan Gentry; two are retired servants of Government; and one is the largest Cotton Merchant in the country. The Members take it in turns among themselves to sit in Court, so that there shall be daily two sitting Magistrates. Their Court House consists of an old Palace in the heart of the city, which has been repaired and altered especially for their accommodation. The Court already possesses considerable prestige in the eyes of the community. Since its constitution in November 1862, up to the 1st July 1863, that is during a space of 9 months, it disposed of 726 cases, and 1,286 persons. The aggregate of work represents about half the Criminal business of the district, and was performed to the satisfaction both of the authorities and of the public. A special Report having been made of the Proceedings of this Court, the Viceroy was pleased to permit the expression of His Excellency's thanks to be conveyed to these Native Gentlemen.

85. I shall conclude this Section by stating that the Penal Code and Criminal Procedure are here, as elsewhere, working excellently well. The Judicial Commissioner writes,—"I believe that two more excellent "Laws were never bestowed upon a country. I cannot exaggerate my "sense of the advantage which, in this respect, these Provinces have "gained."

86. But I may, perhaps, be excused in remarking, that in *one* respect the Criminal Procedure has introduced a change for the worse. In our Courts the *vivâ voce* system, whereby the Judge recorded the notes of evidence with his own hand, and dispensed with the Vernacular record, was in full play. But now, under the Code of Criminal Procedure, an elaborate Vernacular record is rendered obligatory in almost all cases. I fully concur in the following remarks by the Judicial Commissioner:—

"The system of disposing of Criminal trials *vivâ voce*, under "which the Vernacular record of the evidence was altogether dispensed "with, has unfortunately been done away with by the Code of Criminal

" Procedure. During the first three quarters of the year the system was " working well; I should have hoped to see it greatly extended, and I " think that its abolition is much to be regretted. This is almost the " only point in which I believe that the efficiency of our Courts had " suffered by the introduction of the Code; but I look upon this loss as a " very serious one. * * * . The most paltry case of causing " hurt, the most petty theft, and the most trivial case of intimidation " and insult, must be tried under the elaborate procedure laid down for " the trial of the most important and difficult cases."

87. In concluding his Report, Mr. Strachey writes—"I may say, " with confidence, that great improvements in the administration of Cri- " minal Justice were effected during the year. * * * .

" I believe that the real improvement was even greater than that " which the Returns and Reports exhibit."

Section III.—Police.

88. In my last Report I showed how the Police in these Provinces had been reorganized; how the cost of defensive establishments in this arm had been reduced from 18 lakhs of Rupees, or £180,000, to 11¼ lakhs of Rupees, or £112,500 per annum; and how within the year 1862 two Regiments of Irregular Infantry, and 250 Horse, in all 2,000 men Horse and Foot, were discharged; the saving thereby to the State being 3½ lakhs of Rupees, or £35,000. There is now not a vestige of the Irregular Regiments, or of the Military Police, or of the Levies, or of the old Civil Police; all these having been superseded by the organized Constabulary. It is now sufficient to state that this Constabulary, according to the scale

last sanctioned by the Supreme Government, consists of the following Establishment :—

The new Police Establishment.

1	Inspector General per annum -	Rs.	21,600
2	Deputy ditto - - -	„	24,000
12	District Superintendents - -	„	87,600
9	Assistant ditto - - -	„	40,800
44	Inspectors - - - -	„	58,860
8	European Constables, at 60 -	„	5,760
6,276	Foot Constabulary - - -	„	5,70,624
613	Mounted ditto - - -	„	1,67,712
	Office Establishment - -	„	26,400
	Allowance and Medical Establishment - - - -	„	22,512
	Clothing - - - -	„	42,574
	Contingencies - - -	„	32,500
	Extra and Temporary.		
	Allowances, Pensions, &c. -	„	17,964
6,965	Men.	Rs.	11,18,906 (£111,890)

The above Establishments are paid for from the State Revenues.

89. But, within the year the Municipal Police has been thoroughly organized in the same manner as the Constabulary, and under the same departmental authority for all the Towns and Cities throughout these Provinces. There are now 82 places which have this Municipal Police; of which the total number amounts to 1,470 men of all ranks, at a cost of Rupees 1,09,996, or £10,996 per annum. This charge is defrayed from the proceeds of a local octroi, commonly called Town duties. Besides these there is no Town Police or watch and ward of any kind.

The Municipal Police.

90. The total Police Force may be be thus exhibited :—

	Men of all ranks.	Cost per Annum.	
		Rupees.	£
Organized Constabulary	6,965	11,18,906	111,890
Municipal ditto	1,470	1,09,996	10,999
Total ..	8,435	12,28,902	122,889

This gives a rate of cost at Rupees 145, or £14-10*s.*, per man per annum.

91. In my last Report it was shown that the new Police is moderate as compared with area and population, and is even below the standard laid down by the Police Commission; being in the proportion of one Policeman to every 1,191 inhabitants, and to every 15 square miles;* that the Establishment had been scrutinized throughout by Colonel H. Bruce, Inspector General of Police in India, acting specially on behalf of the Supreme Government; that the number and strength of all the Guards and all the posts had been revised; that there was a frequent intermixture with the inhabited tracts of wild, wooded and desolate country, favourable to crime and criminals; that there are three troublesome frontiers, adjoining Foreign territory, to be guarded; that every regard having been paid to financial requirements, the Police had been reduced to a minimum compatible with the performance of its varied duties and the ordinary protection of society. That such is really the case, is confirmed by the experience of the year under review, especially as regards the Foot Police. Looking to the quarters where crime occurs, it is evident that the Police Posts in the interior are just sufficient and no more; that in order to maintain the proper watch and intercommunication, the posts have just enough men; that at the stations and principal places every Guard has been brought down to the lowest point; that escort of treasure is made as unfrequent as possible; that to furnish the Guards and escorts, the men are hard pressed, and can seldom be relieved according to the prescribed routine.

* These ratios depend on Estimates of area and population, which are often vague and not perfectly correct.

Police reduced to a very moderate scale.

92. Recently, in view to give relief to the Foot Police, the Personal Guards heretofore allowed to Civil Officers, when *not* marching, have been given up every where except in the Chutteesghur Division. The scale of Gaurds previously allowed to Civil Officers, when marching, has been reduced. This measure is fully justified by the peaceful condition of the country and the general good character of the people. On the other hand, the severity of the work devolving on the Foot Police will be somewhat lessened.

Personal Guards dispensed with.

93. From the sanctioned establishment of the Foot Police, as already given, one reduction has been made within the year. There was

a reserve of 220 men at Chanda, but since it has been determined to maintain a strong Military Detachment there, this reserve has been broken up. This will cause a saving during the current year, 1863-64, of Rupees 22,704, or £2,270. I have also proposed that the Jail and Treasury Guards should be taken by the Sepoys at Stations where Troops are stationed for reasons of general policy, such as Nagpore, Jubbulpore, Saugor, and Hoshungabad. The principle has been approved by the Supreme Government; and, if carried into effect, it will cause a saving of 221 men, and Rupees, 18, 384 or £1,838 per annum. As troops are cantoned at these Stations, they can take the Jail and Treasury duties without any infraction of the principles recently established; for the rule that troops are never to be detached for duties that can be as well taken by the Police is strictly adhered to. Indeed, as explained in my last Report, all Military Detachments have been withdrawn from out-stations.

Further special reductions in the Police Force.

94. The Mounted Police, 613 men of all ranks, as already exhibited in the Schedule, were formed, after a variety of reductions, from the remnant of the Mahratta Moolkee Horse. The honorable antecedents of these men were explained in my last Report. It may be admitted that the proportion of Mounted Police is high in these Provinces, as compared with some parts of India. But, owing to the vast distances to be traversed, and the large number of scattered points to be watched, a certain strength in this arm will always be requisite. The present strength can, however, I believe, be somewhat reduced without any real difficulty arising. The Supreme Government have approved the proposal to make a reduction. The men do not, as a body, prove efficient. Many among them are excellent horsemen, are of a reliable character, and are possessed of considerable power of endurance. But many others have proved themselves useless as Policemen, and unable to conform to any reasonably strict system. The inefficient men are now being carefully eliminated, and the effect will probably be in the course of a few months to reduce the mounted branch by nearly one-half, at a saving of from Rupees 70,000 to 80,000, or £7, to 8,000 per annum.

The Mounted Police.

95. Both the Judicial and the Police Authorities have urged the necessity of awakening the landholders, great and small, to a keener sense of their duties in respect to the preventions and detection of crime.

Enforcement of responsibility of Landholders in Police matters.

Steps are being taken to remind them, practically, of their obligations both by ancient custom, by the terms of their tenure, and by the actual Law. But it is further proposed to vest a number of landholders with the Police powers in an honorary capacity. This measure appears, from the published Reports, to have been adopted with success in some parts of the Punjab. The list of landholders in the Central Provinces recommended for these powers (which has been submitted to Government) comprises—*firstly*, those Chiefs and Zemindaries, which have been mentioned in the preceding paragraph 83, who have regular jurisdiction and establishments of their own; *secondly*, Jagheerdars who have large estates; and *thirdly*, respectable persons, landholders and others residing in the interior of Districts. In the case of landholders these special powers and responsibilities will be superadded to the general obligation which binds all landholders to put down crime and to aid the Police. But the consciousness of being selected for character and position to exercise Police powers under the Law will, it is hoped, thoroughly enlist the nominees on the side of order, and incite them to redouble exertions in their own estates, and induce them to exert a salutary influence over their neighbours. And, as a practical consideration, it is certain that if the landholders generally, or even an influential section of them, could be brought into a state of active opposition against the Criminal classes, that would do more to stop crime than any measure that could be devised.

The conferring of honorary Police powers on landholders.

96. In the Police Force already described no account is taken of the Police maintained by some independent Rajahs and Chiefs, nor of the Zemindaree Police, nor of the ordinary so-called Village Police; all of which are maintained by the people. It is to be remembered that a considerable portion of the area of the country is occupied by the jurisdictions of Chiefs and Zemindars, which are all, more or less, under British control. Their existence affords important aid to the Police Department.

97. The Rajahs and Chiefs alluded to are those of Buster, Kharonde (Kalahundy) and Kakeir, on the south-east of the Nagpore country, the thirteen Gurjat Rajahs in the Sumbulpore District, and the Mukrye Chief in the Hoshungabad District. All these maintain

Native Chiefs possessing Police powers.

establishments of their own. The Zemindaree Police is maintained by various kinds of Chiefs called Zemindars on their own estates. These Zemindaree jurisdictions exist largely in Chutteesghur, where they encircle the Raepore and Belaspore jurisdictions as with a girdle; in the country between the west bank of the Wynegunga and the Mundla Hills; in the heart of the Sautpoora Range near the Sanitarium of Mohtoor and the Puchmurree Hills; in the lower Valley of the Wynegunga near Chanda; along the left bank of the Godavery; and in various parts of the Sumbulpore District.

The Village Police Servants.

98. Regarding the Village Police, much enquiry and consideration has been devoted to the subject during the year under review. The ultimate decision has not been quite reached; but at present the prescriptive status, rights and perquisites of the men called Village Police, are being recorded and recognized. These men, who exist everywhere under various names are found to be, according to ancient custom, Village *servants*, rather than Village Police. Whatever Police authority may exist in villages is centred in the landholders, or petty proprietors. *These* are the persons who, by the common law, and by long prescription, are really responsible for doing whatever may be emergently required in a case, until the action of the regular Police shall commence, and of rendering aid even after that action shall have commenced. It is to *them*, rather then to the Village servants, that we have a right to look for Police service. If the landholder be made to feel this responsibility, he will make such use of the Village servants, as may be proper. But if the Village servants were unduly elevated, then the natural responsibility and authority of the landholders would be weakened. I am, therefore, *not* prepared, under existing circumstances in these Provinces, to advocate any thing like an organization or transformation of the Village servants into Village Police, or to interfere in their favor regarding their emoluments. They are really the servants of the Villages; their labour has its market value, and that is represented by the payments in kind, and the prequisites they receive. Their places, must apparently be worth keeping, otherwise why have they been retained from father to son, and why are they not abandoned at a time when every kind of labor is so much in demand? But if once the State begins to fix emoluments, or to do any thing beyond registering the status *quo ante*, then experience in these Provinces shews that the men

will clamour for salaries. Then there would arise a charge of many lakhs of Rupees; which charge would have to be defrayed partly by the landholders, who would deem it a burden, and partly by the State in the shape of deductions from the Land Revenue assessment. Various steps have indeed, at various times, been taken in these Provinces in this direction. But I do not now propose to adopt any measure beyond that of recording the pre-existent rights and duties of Village servants, just as all other rights are recorded at the Settlement.

99. It will now be proper to note the result of the new Police system, so far as that can be known, during the first year of its operation.

Effect of the new Police system on the state of crime.

100. It the first place the system *cannot* as yet be affirmed to have caused any diminution of crime, nor to have made any marked impression on the criminal classes. It has been already seen (in the Section which treats of Criminal Justice) that the Returns for the past year shew an increase in all kinds of crime. That crime has really increased need not necessarily be inferred. But at all events it would be premature to aver that the prevention or repression of crime has been appreciably improved as yet. In one important respect, namely, dacoitee or gang robbery, the Police have as yet failed to stop or even to check that crime, which has still continued as bad as ever. I incline to think that in the first instance criminals took advantage of the change, in distribution of out-posts and such like arrangements, to make depredations. During the present rainy season the crime ceases from stress of weather (except on the frontier); but during the cold season some systematic arrangements must be made with a view to the final extinction of dacoitee. It has been shewn how dacoitees have occurred from external causes beyond the control of the Police. Still such cases ought to be met and followed up by the Police with spirit and energy. Now, both on the Saugor and the Chutteesghur Frontiers, instances have occurred of supineness or cowardice on their part, and one signal case occurred in which the Police themselves incited men to commit dacoitees with the secret intention of obtaining credit by capturing the dacoits. Of the general aggregate of these cases, only one third were prosecuted to conviction. In two cases, however, whole gangs were captured. In one case a gang

Gang Robbery or Dacoitee.

was followed up into the wild country on the Sumbulpore Frontier, and several of the robbers taken after armed resistance. Of murders and of highway robberies the Police detected and prosecuted successfully about one-half. Whether the increased number under the head of house-breaking and ordinary theft afford any proof of real increase in these crimes, is doubtful. But the increased number of cases under the head of cattle-stealing is so far creditable to the Police as shewing that they have brought more of these cases to light. And inasmuch as the real occurrences of cattle-stealing do greatly exceed any detection yet attempted, it is to be hoped that the number appearing in the Returns may become greater still. Again, the increased number of receivers of stolen property brought to detection by the new Police redounds to its credit. In respect to the recovery of stolen property, Rupees 58,191, or £,5819 were recovered by the Police in 1862, against Rupees 67,311, or £6,731 recovered by the old Police and the aggrieved parties together in 1861. This amount is equal to about one-third of the property represented to have been stolen, but the real aggregate value of property stolen can never be accurately known.

Offences against property.

Total of cases brought to trial.

101. Of all the crimes and offences taken together, more cases were brought to trial in 1862 than in 1861, as follows :—

	Cases.	Persons.
1861 - - -	11,339 - -	21,072
1862 - - -	12,372 - -	22,556

The increase also was mainly in non-bailable offences, and this circumstance is also satisfactory. It is to be observed also that during the year under review the Police acted on the old law now repealed, which prohibited their interference in cases of theft without application from the aggrieved party, and were thus restrained from doing more than report the vast majority of thefts. The scope of their action in this respect has now been enlarged, and the result will, doubtless, be an increased number of thieves apprehended. Again, of the persons brought to trial a greater proportion were convicted in 1862 than in 1861 — 70·29 per cent. of the whole tried being convicted in the latter year, and 63·74 per cent. in the former. All the above facts shew that the new Police were more successful in arresting and prosecuting criminals than the old. Still the want of detective power is one of the principal, perhaps

the greatest, drawback in the new Police. The creation of a detective element must be a work of time, but as yet there is not much trace of it. On the whole the tendency of the facts is satisfactory, and seems to shew that a change for the better is setting in.

Executive work of the Police.

102. In its executive capacity (as distinguished from the repression and detection of crime) the conduct of the new Police, as a body, has been good. In drill, order, external discipline, the men have reached a fair proficiency. They know the use of their arms and the few exercises that are prescribed. They have guarded a daily average of 3,421 prisoners distributed over 16 Jails; they have given sentries to seventy-five Treasuries and Court Houses in the stations and in the interior of Districts; they have occupied 367 posts; they have patrolled about 7,640 miles of road; they have escorted (50) Fifty Laks of Rupees of Treasure. These varied duties they have performed with unquestionable efficiency.

Education and instruction of the Police.

103. Efforts have been made, with some success, to instruct the Police in Criminal Law and Procedure, and to diffuse a tincture of education even among the privates. The European Officers have passed good examinations in the prescribed tests. Normal Schools are established at four of the principal stations, where the Native Officers and selected privates may study the Penal Code and Criminal Procedure, and be examined by examiners appointed for that purpose. At the head-quarters of every District there is a School where privates may learn to read and write, and a School for the education of the sons of Policemen, and all these Schools are well attended.

104. The number of Policemen punished by the Magistrates during the year, is as follows:—

	Fined.	Imprisoned.	Transported.	Hanged.	Total.
Chief Constables, ...	3	3	...	...	6
Head Constables, ...	11	6	...	...	17
Constables, ...	19	40	1	1	61
Total....	33	49	1	1	84

Besides these, there have been 16 Chief Constables, 33 Head Constables, and 219 Constables dismissed departmentally. In many cases these

punishments were inflicted for bribery and corruption. The occurrence of such convictions confirms the impression that the new system possesses superior facilities for the detection and punishment of misconduct of the Police themselves. In respect to dismissals, it is to be noted that, at the outset, many men were admitted who proved unequal to the exigencies of the new system. It is to be hoped that dismissals will become less and less frequent. The consciousness of permanency and the hope of promotion by merit are essential to the popularity of the service.

Satisfactory relations between the Police and the Magistrates.

105. The relations between the Police Department and the Magistracy have been uniformly good and honorable to both parties. Disputes and jealousies have been happily unknown. At first the Deputy Commissioners, supposing the Police to be an entirely separate and independent Department, misapprehended the extent of their own responsibility for the Police administration, and the degree of supervision required from themselves. These misapprehensions have been removed by the various instructions issued; and the Deputy Commissioners fully understand that the Police, though Departmentally independent, is still an instrument under the control of the Magistrates.

Good character of the New Police.

106. The Commissioners and the Deputy Commissioners almost invariably report well of the conduct and character of the New Police, and consider it to constitute an improvement over the old. This testimony, from authorities necessarily impartial and well informed, must carry considerable weight. So far as I can learn, it appears that the Police are now less oppressive and altogether more considerate towards the people than formerly. An improvement in all respects was indeed to be looked for by reason of the additional organization, the increased European supervision, and the advantages offered to every grade from the private upwards. If such improvement were not perceptible, there would be ground for disappointment. But it is satisfactory to know that there is no disappointment, and that reasonable anticipations are realized. Though I have stated the short-comings of the New Police without sparing any, still I have tried to do justice to its merits. I do certainly, for one, believe in the excellence of the new system. Looking to the zeal and ability of the Inspector General

(Colonel Taylor) and of his Officers, I anticipate that this system will be worked well; and that, if so worked, it will remedy existing deficiencies, and result eventually in complete success.

Abolition of the Thuggee Department.

107. The orders of the Viceroy have been received for the abolition of the separate Thuggee Department in these Provinces, as in all other British Territories. Most of the special establishments belonging to that Department are either to be discharged, or incorporated with the regular Police. The excellent School of Industry at Jubbulpore, for the reformation of Thugs and the proper education of their children, is to be retained. The success of the operations for the suppression of Thuggee, carried on through many years, has been so great, that the special Thuggee Agency can be dispensed with. It is right, however, to remember the immense debt of gratitude which Native society in these Provinces owes to that Department. It was within the limits of the Nerbudda country that Sir W. Sleeman first began those proceedings against the Thugs which have ended in the apparent extinction of that dreadful tribe. The gain thereby obtained in arresting the loss of innocent life, and in protecting the roads from the most awful and mysterious crimes, is great beyond estimation. The achievements of the Thuggee Department will be long and thankfully remembered by the people in these Provinces as among the happiest triumphs of British Rule. It is right that I should add that the present General Superintendent, Lieutenant-Colonel Hervey, has been very successful in his Departmental proceedings in this part of India, and has afforded cordial assistance to this administration.

Section IV.—Jails.

Inspector of prisons appointed.

108. In my last Report (paragraphs 156 to 158) I gave a general description of the Jails in these Provinces, to which description, there is, as yet, but little to be added. During the year under review, however, an Inspector of Prisons has been appointed. That Officer did

not join till the year was half over; but he has inspected all the Jails in these Provinces. This measure has not, of course, been yet fruitful of results, but it has laid the foundation on which the future structure of reform will be raised.

Jail buildings.

109. In respect to Jail buildings within the year, the following operations have been carried out. A vacant Military Hospital at Nagpore has been fitted up and converted into an excellent Jail, holding two hundred prisoners, and the work-sheds of the old Jail in the city have been improved. Complete designs and estimates for a new Central Jail have been framed, and a carefully selected site has been prepared; it is hoped the work will be very shortly commenced. At Raepore designs and estimates have been prepared for a Central Jail for the Chutteesghur Division, and the work has been commenced. At Belaspore (where the old Jail was nothing more than a hovel of the meanest kind) an old Military Hospital has been converted into an excellent Lock-up for 50 prisoners. At Sumbulpore a new Lock-up or small Jail has been designed and commenced. Thus the Chutteesghur Division (where formerly the Jails were of the worst description) is being provided with a new set of Prisons. At Chanda, a temporary Jail has been constructed. At Mundla, a new Lock-up is being designed.

Increase in the number of Prisoners.

110. As a rule, the Jails are over-crowded; a result to which the abolition of flogging has partly contributed. The existing accommodation was calculated to be sufficient for 2,424 prisoners; whereas the strength on the 31st December 1862 amounted to 4,020 prisoners. Considering the state of the Jail building, this circumstance is likely to cause anxiety. The number of prisoners, too, appears to be on the increase; the number rose from 3,620 on 1st January 1862 to 4,034 on 1st January 1863.

Average cost of Prisoners.

111. The general average charge per head per annum for 1862 amounts to Rupees 41-10-4, or £4 3*s.* 3½*d.*, which is somewhat less then the average for 1861, namely Rupees 42-9-6, or £4 5*s.* 2¼*d.* The decrease in 1862 is, however, really more then it seems, as the price of provisions rose considerably in that period. The average is, however, still too high; and it

is to be hoped that the Inspector will succeed in effecting a reduction during the current year. As the first step in this direction, a proper scale of Dietary has been fixed, the former allowance having been in some cases excessive. It is to be borne in mind that the cost of guarding the prisoners will, until Jail buildings shall have been completed, be higher here than in older provinces.

In-door labor system.

112. The in-door labor system has been more strictly enforced than heretofore in most Jails. But at some stations, owing to the extreme scarcity of labor, the services of the prisoners for local works out of doors continue to be indispensable. In some Jails the number of prisoners detached for menial and miscellaneous duties, within the precincts of the Jail, was found to be excessive, tending to idleness and waste of time. This has been rectified.

Jail Manufactures.

113. It follows, from the above, that the system of Jail manufactures has not been thoroughly introduced. Besides the difficulty in respect to the attendance of prisoners at this kind of work, there is generally a deficiency of workshops, which want can only be gradually supplied. But its operation has been increased during the year in the principle Jails. The direct cash profits from the sale of Jail manufactures has amounted to Rupees 6,615, or £661; and the value of articles manufactured by prisoners for prison use is estimated at Rupees 13,300, or £1,330. The manufactures consist mainly of durree, carpets, blankets, cloths, horse gear, and the like There are Paper Manufactures in the Nagpore and Jubbulpore Jails, and also Lithographic Presses, which are working successfully. Gardens are attached to nearly all the Jails, and some of them are in excellent order.

114. Out of 3,736 prisoners, there were 509 cases of re-commitment, that is, prisoners who had been in Jail before, or one out of every seven. This is an unfavorable sign.

115. Some progress has been made in all the Jails in instructing the prisoners to read and write. These forced scholars have been examined by Officers of the Educational Department; 1,205 prisoners out of 3,736 are reported to be able to read or write.

116. The good behaviour system, whereby prisoners who have conducted themselves well are rewarded by mitigation of terms of their sentence, is being introduced; and Rules for that purpose are being framed.

Improvements in Jail discipline.

117. Owing to the general want of cells, there has been but little solitary or separate confinement; and in the present state of the buildings the grouping of prisoners according to classes of crime is very imperfect.

Health of Prisoners.

118. That the general health of the prisoners has been good, will be seen from the following Return:—

Daily average number of prisoners in Jail.	Daily average percentage of sick.	Percentage of deaths during the year on daily average number of prisoners.
3,973·37	5·07	4·12

At the present time of writing, however, Cholera has made its appearance in three Jails.

119. The general conduct of the prisoners would appear to be good from the small returns of punishments inflicted. The number of escapes, 47 (out of which 30 were recaptured), is large; but this is partly owing to the defectiveness of the Jail buildings.

120. At some stations the Civil Surgeons have undertaken the charge of the Jails, in subordination to the Deputy Commissioners, and have rendered good service in that capacity. I hope that in all cases a fixed scale of pecuniary allowance may be attached to the charge of the Jails. The Jail at Nagpore has been placed under the immediate control of the Inspector of Prisons.

CHAPTER IV.

REVENUE.

SECTION I.—LAND TAX.

121. In my last Report the Land Tax for the year 1862-63 was estimated at 52¼ lakhs, or £522,500. The demand, however, for the year has amounted to Rupees 53,51,400, or £535,140, and the amount actually collected within the year to Rupees 53,46,553, or £534,655. The actual result is slightly above the estimate, and the difference, such as it is, appears on the right side. The Land Tax is flourishing; there has been no agricultural distress, and no important reduction of demand has been found necessary any where. On the other hand, the rates at which the Land Tax is fixed are known to be light. There is no difficulty whatever in collection; no coercive processes are ever resorted to; the only process required is the issue of notices to pay (dustuks), and these are diminishing yearly. Thus there is no drawback to the satisfaction with which a slight increase is to be regarded. The present figure is the highest which the Land Tax has ever reached in these Provinces. The prices of agricultural produce have risen during the year, and the exportation of grain from the Nerbudda Valley towards Bombay and from the Nagpore and Chutteesghur Country towards the Deccan has been considerable. These circumstances are favorable to the landholders in these Provinces.

The yield of the Land Tax.

122. In my last Report, paragraphs 174 to 191, the tenure of land in these Provinces was explained. The conclusion was that, for the most part, the villages or estates were held by farmers of the middle class, not large and not petty. These farmers are now being recognized as proprietors, so that generally each Village will belong to a single proprietor with tenants under him. These proprietors will hold a medium position, less than that of a large Zemindar, but above that of a peasant proprietor.

Tenure of Land.

Their proprietory rights in their respective estates will be in all respects absolute, subject only to the payment of Land Tax. The tenure (as it is about to be fully developed) has originated in circumstances of long existence; and it must be accepted for good or evil. But whatever other advantages it may or may not have it does so far benefit society, in that it strengthens and fosters a good middle class. There will be the tenant at will, the tenants with right of occupancy, the small proprietor, the Zemindar, the rural Chief; and the gradation will thus be complete. The class of Village proprietors scattered all over the interior of the country may become an engine for good, inasmuch as their power is widely extended, and any beneficial influence successfully exerted upon them will be sure to extend itself throughout their estates. Thus they may become an useful link between the Government and the mass of the agricultural population.

123. But this present state of transition from farmer to proprietor is necessarily to them one of anxiety, which will only be quite dispelled when the settlement, now in progress, shall be completed. Every month's experience shews the desirability of bringing the settlement operations to a satisfactory completion; while this is pending the landholders refrain from expending the capital, or making the exertions, which are necessary to improve their estates, or even to maintain existing cultivation at its proper standard. Moreover, until the terms of the settlement are finally declared, these people constantly evince unreasonable suspicion of the intentions of Government. Every effort has been made to elucidate to them the vast improvement in their condition and prospects; and in every District I have had large numbers of them assembled together and have explained the whole subject to them. In the present condition of these Provinces it is a measure of primary and fundamental importance to determine the property in land as a right in itself immutable, subject only to the payment of a moderate Land Tax fixed for long periods.

Progress of the settlement.

124. Within the year under review great efforts have been made to advance the settlement in all Districts of these Provinces. The operations have been commenced *ab initio* in seven Districts within the year; in the remaining ten Districts they have been proceeded with vigourously. Thus the settlement is in progress in all the seventeen Districts of these Provinces.

Three new Settlement Officers (Civil Servants) have been appointed, and five Deputy Commissioners have been (by the appointment of substitutes) relieved of their District duties, so that they might devote themselves to the settlement. Thirteen Assistants and Extra Assistants (including Uncovenanted European and Native) have been employed in deciding settlement cases, and subordinate Officials, to the number of about 600, have been engaged in the work.

Special inspection of the Settlement.

125. In order that the stages in the work—such as the demarcation of boundaries, the field measurement, the compilation of statistics, the registration of rights, the method of investigating tenures, and the like—might be arranged according to the best experience with an uniform practice and procedure, in order that the various Establishments might be apportioned to the several branches of work in the most economical manner; and in order that the work itself might be abridged and shorn of all superfluities. A special Officer was, under the sanction of the Supreme Government, deputed to inspect all the settlements. This Officer, Captain Hector Mackenzie, Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, was thus deputed, and visited the Settlement Offices in every District (save Chutteesghur); and, after a lengthened examination, it is hoped that great improvements in system have been effected, and much economy introduced.

Assessment of the Land Tax.

123. Previously to the year under review, the operations had for some years been confined chiefly to the measurement of the land; an essential preliminary which had generally been well performed. In the Nagpore District the assessment of a small portion had been declared; but in no other part of these Provinces had any assessments of the Land Tax itself been made. Considering, then, that the field measurement had been made to a large extent every where, the first care during the working season of 1862-63 has been to compile and collate the masses of available statistics, and to frame the assessments of the Land Tax. To this object the energies of every Settlement Officer have been directed. The work necessarily occupies some little time, inasmuch as the Assessing Officer must visit *every* village, or nearly every village which is to be assessed. The result is that the assessments are now being framed and brought out in eleven Districts. During the current recess season,

which terminates in October, the following assessment will be declared:—

Districts.	Total Villages assessed.	Total Revenue assessed.	
		Rupees.	£.
Saugor ...	675	1,63,597	16,360
Dumoh ...	685	1,46,130	14,613
Jubbulpore ...	2,435	4,74,251	47,425
Nursingpore ...	611	1,90,780	19,079
Hoshungabad ...	472	85,039	8,503
Baitool ...	1,390	1,39,298	13,930
Seonee ...	737	1,27,241	12,724
Chindwara ...	220	38,393	3,840
Nagpore ...	1,756	6,01,937	60,193
Wurdah ...	988	3,86,129	38,612
Bhundara ...	491	1,20,774	12,077
Total ..	10,461	24,79,569	2,47,956

The aggregate represents nearly half the Land Revenue of these Provinces as having been assessed. This is among the most important of all the operations undertaken by this Administration during the year under review.

Average rates of Assessment.

127. These proceedings enable me to state the rates per acre at which the Land Tax in these Provinces is to fall. In the Saugor District the average rate per cultivated acre will be—

	Rs. As. P	£ s. d.
In Dumoh - - -	0 10 0	0 1 3
In Nursingpore - - -	0 15 0	0 1 10½
In Seonee - - -	0 9 0	0 1 1½
In Nagpore - - -	0 12 0	0 1 6
In Jubbulpore - - -	1 4 0	0 2 6
In Hoshungabad - - -	0 8 0	0 1 0

In Baitool	-	-	-	0	8	0	0	1	0
In Wurdah	-	-	-	0	10	0	0	1	3
In Chindwara	-	-	-	0	9	0	0	1	1½
In Bhundara	-	-	-	0	12	0	0	1	6

It may be, without doubt, affirmed that these rates are moderate, representing only a small proportion of the value of the gross produce, and leaving a large margin to the landholder for his own profit and for the improvement of his estate.

Period of limitation of the Government Demand.

128. The period over which the limitation of the Government demand, according to the new assessment, is to extend is thirty years for all districts alike. This has been sanctioned by Government. It has also been recommended that the boon of a permanent settlement, that is the limitation of the Government demand in perpetuity, should be conceded to those landholders who might have brought their estates to a high state of cultivation. The Government have decided that, after the lapse of ten years, from the commencement of the new settlement, and therefore even within the period of that settlement, those landholders who may be thought worthy of the concession, and who may desire a perpetual limitation of the Government demand, may have their assessments revised with a view to such limitation in perpetuity being declared.

Declaration of Proprietary Rights.

129. Second only in importance to the declaration of assessment is the determination of proprietary right, as already described. This has been judicially done in 5,820 villages up to 1st July. In all the Districts taken together there are hundreds of these important cases being decided every month. In the cases thus decided the farmer is placed out of suspense by being declared proprietor, and can then, with confidence, set about improving his estate.

Revenue-free Tenures.

130. During the year also 13,365 cases of rent-free* tenures have been investigated. Some 19,881 villages have had their boundaries marked off, and 17,203 villages have been measured up field by field, including estates measured in previous years, and also those measured in the current; there must now be some 43,000 square miles of cultivated and inhabited country in these Provinces measured up field by field, and piece by piece.

* These are claims to hold the land free of Land Tax, and should more properly be called Revenue-free.

Suits for Rent.

131. The Revenue Authorities decided 5,031 suits for rent in 1862-63, against 4,156 in 1861-62. These will in future be decided judicially, under Act X. of 1859, by the Regular Courts.

Apportionment of Waste Lands.

132. A set of Rules to check the apportionment of waste lands, to which no reasonable claim could be substantiated, has been framed, and obtained the approval of the Viceroy. Without these precautions, there is apprehension that many square miles, as yet of unknown value, might be inadvertently allotted to village landholders. These men would, if unchecked, claim quantities of waste which they had never even seen or trodden, and with which they could do nothing. But while the just rights of the State are guarded, the rights of individuals in respect to grazing, to pasturage, to wood cutting, and the like, are carefully respected. All special claims are heard; and even where no right is proved, a liberal allowance of waste is made in proportion to the cultivated land.

Tenant Right.

133. In my last Report, paragraph 190, it was mentioned that tenant right is being protected, and that cultivators are having their hereditary title (involving right of occupancy) examined and recognized.

Village Accountants.

134. The body of Native Village Accountants (Putwarees) are receiving in the Settlement Department the best practical education in their duties.

Settlement Code.

135. In order that the Settlement Department might be instructed in its duties all the former orders issued by various authorities at various times have been collected, and selections made; to these supplementary orders on fresh points have been added, and the whole having been framed into a complete Settlement Code have been submitted to the Viceroy for sanction. The Code comprises not only the principal matters relating to procedure of the settlement, but also to the various rights, interests, privileges, and responsibilities, which this great operation creates, as affecting all classes of the agricultural community.

The large Zemindars.

136. The status and rights of the large Zemindars, mentioned in paragraph 191 of my last Report, have been specially enquired into. I have myself seen them all, and visited most of their estates. A special Report on the subject will shortly be submitted to Government.

Special Settlement Commissioner.

137. In my last Report, paragraph 190, the reasons were explained why a special Commissioner is needed to superintend the settlement operations. During this last season, as already stated, the settlements have in all districts (save Chutteesghur) been inspected by an Officer specially deputed for that purpose, and great advantage has been derived thereby. But the experience thus gained has shown more completely than ever how much a permanent supervising Officer is needed to secure uniformity of practice; adaptation of all establishments to the economical and prompt performance of work; abridgement of unnecessary business; and due consideration of all rights and interests to be dealt with. For these objects the Viceroy has recently been pleased to sanction the appointment of a Settlement Commissioner, who will strictly supervise all the Settlement operations throughout the Central Provinces. The constant scrutiny which will thus be maintained will not only cause the work to be better done, and the enquiries to be more complete, but will also repay the cost of the special inspection by the economies that will be enforced.

Repair of Tanks.

138. In my last Report, paragraph 203, the necessity of examining and repairing the numerous tanks of various sizes in the Nagpore Province was explained. Since then an Officer has been appointed as Superintendent of Irrigation with a small Establishment of Native Surveyors. During the season of 1862-63 about 1,550 tanks in the Nagpore Province have been examined. Of the smaller ones many, indeed most, were found to be in good order. Among the larger ones many were found to be in need of repair. In some cases the repair was undertaken by the people themselves; in many cases they were allowed an advance from Government to help in defraying the cost, and to be repaid hereafter by annual instalments; and in some special cases assistance was given from Local Funds. The total sum for repair of tanks granted by advances, and from Local Funds during the year, amounts to Rupees 38,737, or

£3,873. Several important sites for possible future tanks or lakes have been discovered, as also the remains of old tanks in the depth of the jungles, either left unfinished by their authors, or else neglected for ages, and now abandoned without even the faintest tradition as to when, how, or by whom, they were made.

Section II.—Other Taxes.

Salt Tax, Excise, Stamps, &c.

The yield of the Salt Tax.

139. The mode in which the Salt Tax is levied in these Provinces was described in my last Report, paragraphs 209 to 215, and I need not repeat what is there explained. For the year 1861-62 the total collections under this head amounted to Rupees 9,95,290, or £99,529. For the year under review, 1862-63, they amounted to Rupees 12,25,434, or £122,543, shewing an increase over the preceding year of Rupees 2,30,144, or £23,014. This increase, amounting to 2¼ lakhs of Rupees (£22,500), must be in part owing to improved management and increased consumption. But it is also owing in part to the Districts of Hoshungabad and Baitool and part of the Nursingpore District having been brought under taxation for the first time during 1862-63. These Districts were formerly exempted virtually. But by local arrangements they are now made to pay the same Salt Tax as their neighbours, and the receipts from them have, during the last year, 1862-63, amounted to Rupees 1,05,054, or £10,505. The unnecessary immunity enjoyed by the Town of Saugor has also been abolished within the year, and that has caused an increase to the revenue.

140. The rate of duty at three Rupees, or six shillings, per maund of 82 lbs., which has been fixed uniformly with that of the North-Western Provinces, is somewhat high for these Provinces, and is in some places complained of. So far as the interests of these Provinces are concerned, there would be no objection to the duty being lowered; but

this could not be effected while the North-Western Provinces' rate remains as at present, inasmuch as uniformity is indispensable.

Customs Lines.

141. At present the duty is levied on two lines: one called the Imperial and one the Local. The manner in which these two lines are connected with each other is shown in the annexed Sketch Map. It would be desirable to have, if possible, one line that should follow the outer limit of these Provinces on their Western and South-Western Frontiers. I have recommended that this arrangement be tried; if it should succeed, there would be considerable economy in the cost of collection, which now amounts to 23¼ per cent. on the gross yield for the Imperial line, and 9¼ per cent. for the Local line. There would still remain Eastern Nagpore or Chutteesghur, which must always have a special line of its own.

Excise on Spirits.

142. The excise on spirits amounted to Rupees 8,01,840, or £80,184, in 1861-62, and to Rupees 6,61,323, or £66,132, in 1862-63, shewing a decrease on the latter of Rupees 1,40,517, or £14,051. The decrease is owing to the introduction of the Sudder Distillery System in the Saugor and Nerbudda Districts. The old system, which farmed out to the highest bidder the exclusive privilege of selling liquor, was objectionable; as tending to artificially encourage drinking, and as raising up a class of men under direct Government patronage whose interest it must be to diffuse a taste for spirits among the people. Whatever the theory may have been, the practical effect of this system in these Provinces was to render liquor extremely cheap, and to place it within the reach of even the poorest classes. The new method (called the Sudder Distillery System) withholds all such encouragement, and merely prescribes certain places where alone liquor may be distilled by those who choose to do so, and removed only on payment of a fixed rate of duty by licensed vendors. The effect of this is to enable the fiscal authorities to maintain the duty at the highest rate possible, without given rise to smuggling. The tendency of those measures is to diminish consumption, and yet to obviate any serious fiscal loss by raising the maximum of revenue on the minimum of spirits. The object of the change, however, is not to increase revenue, but to obviate the moral objections to which the old system was justly open. If, in order to effect such a reform, some loss of excise revenue should be incurred, the sacrifice will not be material.

The Sudder Distillery System.

143. In the Saugor and Nerbudda Districts the new system had caused no appreciable loss of revenue in the best populated Districts. But in the Hill Districts (Seonee, Mandla, and Baitool) the excise revenue has very greatly decreased. The manner in which the decrease has occurred is somewhat remarkable. These hilly regions are chiefly inhabited by Gonds and also by other tribes of similar character, such as Gowlees, Mehras, Purdhans, and the like. In the present generation these people, and especially the Gonds, are notoriously addicted to liquor; and it is apprehended that they are degenerating, perhaps decreasing in numbers, and lapsing into savagery. Yet it has been often asserted that in a former generation they were not quite such drunkards, and were a somewhat finer race; and that since the introduction of British rule their habits of inebriation have become aggravated. That the Gonds of former ages were vastly superior to their descendants of the present day, is evident from the traces which survive of the power of former Gond Dynasties.

144. That the consumption of spirits has, in some way, been unduly stimulated, is inferrible from the Excise Revenue in these particular places. In Districts which are so poor and wild, that but little Land Revenue could be collected from them, there has been realized a considerable excise on spirits. So that it would seem that liquor was one of the principal articles of consumption. This may be seen as follows:—

District.	Land Revenue.		Excise on Spirits.	
	Rupees.	£.	Rupees.	£.
Seonee - - -	1,36,456	13,645	54,875	5,487
Mundla - - -	45,586	4,558	24,132	2,413
Baitool - - -	1,40,732	14,073	59,052	5,905

It is, indeed, certain that, for many years, the Excise Contractors have hawked about their spirits with unhappy success among the Gond population. I may cite the following instance as one out of many. I derive this instance from the authority of my Secretary, Captain Mackenzie, when recenty employed on special duty. This Officer writes thus :—

Abuses of the old system.

"A Native Officer of the Salt Customs in the Seonee District told me a specific instance of the power of the "Abkaree or Government license holders "over the Gonds. He said that in the course of one of his tours, having "deviated from his line of beat, he came upon a kind of open-air Council, "or gathering of the Gonds, in the depths of the Forest. There was "apparently some excitement; and, on the Customs Officer showing "himself, one of the party immediately made towards him, and appealed "to him to procure a solution of the difficulty in his favor. The "difficulty was this: The Gond had been, or was about to be, married. "It was the custom for a certain amount of liquor to be taken on such "occasions from the license-holder. But some dispute had arisen on this "particular occasion in regard either to the quantity or the price. The "Gond, when encouraged to speak out by the Customs Official, stoutly "maintained that he did not want the liquor at all. It was, doubtless, "customary to take a certain quantity on these occasions, but the terms "which the license-holder now wished to impose were too hard. There "was the license-holder in the midst, and before him were the earthen "pots of liquor which was about to be forced upon these poor simple "savages.

"Among others, Ramdeen, the well-know landholder of Shahpore, "in the Baitool District, told me that the sway of the license-holders "over the Gonds was little short of absolute. He held the farm of "several Forest villages, and had, of course, full means of knowing the "manner in which the license-holders used the influence they had ac-"quired. But although, as he assured me, that influence sometimes "took the form of cruelty, so completely were the Gonds subject to it, "that he could never obtain information on such points direct from "those Gonds who most suffered from it."

145. To illustrate the subject further, I may observe that the Gonds are know to be in the habit of bartering the produce of their lands for liquor. A dealer will come to these people and take timber, or

fuel, or lac, or other articles, and pay for them not in money, but in spirits. Again, I have heard it said, by Executive Officers on the new road between Jubbulpore and Nagpore, that the Gonds, who form gangs of workmen, and who receive large wages, spend the greater part of their earnings in drink. Further, in many of the Gond villages the aspect is as follows : In the depth of the Forest there are a few wood and straw huts of the meanest kind. In the midst of these there is a house of a better description than the others, with a respectable enclosure, indicating the existence of superior resources. At its door there are sitting some people half naked, with stupified visages and glaring eyes, the victims of drinking. This is the spirit shop kept by a person who holds a Government license and monopoly. Sometimes the Liquor Vendor would buy up the scanty property of these wretched people, and having absorbed or exhausted one hamlet would move on to another. These shops have now disappeared, or greatly decreased in numbers, owing to the enhanced price resulting from the new system.

Effect of the new system.

143. The effect at present is to greatly diminish drinking among the Gonds. This change is attested by various authorities who are in a position to have good information on the subject. Among them may be cited Captain Thomson, Deputy Commissioner of Seonee, who, from the position of his District, probably knows more about the Hill people than any other Civil Officer in these Provinces. This Officer writes, referring to the effect of the new or Sudder Distillery System :—

" As a rule, I think that the liquor-drinking classes have given up " drinking. Every landholder whom I have spoken to on the subject, " and even the drinking classes themselves and the spirit dealers, have " all told me so. I should say, most undoubtedly, that illicit manufacture " to any extent has not yet been resorted to by the people. The land- " holders particularly rejoice in this state of things, as it saves them " from the piecemeal theft of grain and other articles which was for- " merly so extensively resorted to by their servants, who exchanged it " for liquor. They declare also that the drinking classes are much better " for the change ; that, instead of spending 20 or 30 rupees (£2 or 3) a " year in liquor, they have been able to keep the money to clothe and " feed their families."

147. The following testimony is offered by Captain Pearson, Superintendent of Forests, whose employment brings him in frequent contact with these people. This Officer writes :—

" I think that the Sudder Distillery System works excellently well, " and keeps the Gonds out of liquor. They really get little or none " now, and themselves fully acknowledge the benefit of being without " it. By the old system it was forced down their throats. It was grievous " to see the way they were going to ruin * * *. I believe " that much smuggling will not take place : I see more of the Gonds " than most people * * *; and I always grieved over the way in " which these people were being liquored off the face of the earth."

148. Again, in his last Forest Report, Captain Pearson writes thus regarding the Southern part of the Baitool District :—

" The landholders say that the cause of this emigration to Berar " is partly the facility with which liquor is procured there * * *. " There is not a Gond, whom I have spoken to, who does not acknow- " ledge how thankful they are that they are no longer able to obtain " ardent spirits. Heretofore custom has obliged a Gond to get drink " on every occasion of ceremony, and the women were as bad as the " men * * *. The change has, no doubt, been rendered much more " easy by the prohibition to fell teak timber, which was commonly paid " for in spirits. *And I am sure that the great instruments in promoting " the use of ardent spirits were the timber dealers.*"

149. It may appear strange that the Gonds, missing their accustomed supply, do not resort to illicit manufacture; and should be deterred therefrom by a mere prohibition. But experience in another Department, namely that of Forest Conservancy, has shown these Hill people to be naturally fearful of disobeying orders issued by authority. Again, it may be that they are not utterly addicted to drinking; and that, since the withdrawal of temptation offered by the contractors, they do not care to make any great effort to obtain liquor. And further, the landholders of other castes, who employ them largely as farm tenants and labourers, are strongly in favor of the change. Still the rise of illicit manufacture is a thing to be apprehended. There will be many ways of guarding against it. But even if it were to arise, that would be a lesser evil than the demoralization of the Hill people by the direct operation of our fiscal system.

150. I have recommended the introduction of the system into the Nagpore Province. In the well inhabited tracts there is the probability that it will diminish consumption, but increasing the taxation upon the quantity consumed will maintain the Excise Revenue. In the wild and hilly tracts it will, by removing extraneous temptation, so far check consumption as to cause a falling off in the excise. But such loss would be matter for no regret in consideration of the justice of the change and its good effect upon the habits of the people. In that case, however, additional precautions against illicit manufacture will have to be taken.

Income Tax.

151. The Income Tax collections amount to Rupees 4,31,257, or £43,125, for 1862-63, against Rupees 4,00,055, or £40,005, in 1861-62. It was to have been expected that, instead of an increase, there would be a decrease in 1862-63 by reason of the remission of the tax upon smaller incomes. The increase now shewn in the collections has arisen, not from the assessment being inhanced, but from the balances of former years having been realized. For some time there was, at Nagpore itself, some remissness in the collection of the tax; this has now been remedied.

House Tax.

152. The old paudree or House Tax in the Nagpore Province, an impost sanctioned by long usage, has been carefully revised and assessed. The last assessments amount to Rupees 2,03,015, or £20,301.

Stamp Revenue.

153. The Stamp Revenue realized under the operation of the new Stamp Law (Act X. of 1862) has amounted to Rupees 3,59,799, or £35,979, being an increase of Rupees 97,330, or £9,773, over the realization of 1861-62, which amounted to Rupees 2,62,469, or £26,246. The new Law has caused a great extension in the sale of Stamps. The sale much depends upon the number of Vendors whom the Authorities may succeed in establishing. There are now established Vendors,—official 49, non-official 454.

Abolition of the Local Sugar Tax.

154. The Sugar Tax in these Provinces belongs to two categories:

First.—The Tax levied on the Imperial Line on sugar passing from Hindoostan to Bombay and the Deccan amounted in 1861-62 to Rupees 1,50,028, or £15,002, but has fallen in 1862-63 to Rupees 1,00,152, or

£10,015. This decrease is attributed to a mere fluctuation of trade caused by the absorption of all available carriage on the Bombay route for the cotton traffic.

Second.—The Local Tax levied on home-grown saccharine produce, amounting to Rupees 75,973, or £7,597, was found to be injurious in its operation; and it has been now abolished with the sanction of the Supreme Government.

The Opium Revenue.

155. The Opium Revenue has amounted to Rupees 18,176, or £1,817, in 1862-63, against Rupees 20,401, or £2,040, in the previous year. This is raised by local taxation. The questions connected with the Opium Revenue of these Provinces have been fully examined within the year. It is not desired to foster the growth of opium for local consumption. But it is found that raw opium is produced in the Baitool, Nagpore, and Wurdah Districts, and is carried in considerable quantities to Indore; and there having been made up and weighed in the established scales, is sent to Bombay for exportation to China. But the Baitool opium, is sent to Indore to be weighed for Bombay, has to make a long and unnecessary circuit. If scales were established at Nagpore, such opium could be more conveniently sent by direct route to Bombay; and it seems probable that if such facilities, near at hand, were offered, many parts of the Nagpore District would grow opium for exportation *viâ* Bombay. The sanction of the Supreme Government for the establishment of scales at Nagpore has been obtained.

Abandonment of the Tobacco Tax.

156. The levy of a Tobacco Tax in these Provinces was contemplated, and arrangements with that view were commenced. But considerable difficulties became apparent; and a full Report having been submitted, it was decided by the Supreme Government to abandon the intended impost altogether.

Forest and Miscellaneous Revenues.

157. The gross collections of Forest Revenue amounted in 1862-63 to Rupees 60,843, or £6,084, against Rupees 64,302, or £6,430, in 1861-62.

158. The Miscellaneous Revenues, exclusive of all the above items, amounted to Rupees 2,26,483, or £22,648, in 1862-63, against Rupees 1,60,400, or £16,040, of the preceding year.

Section III.—Total Revenues.

Total Revenue increasing.

159. The following Abstract will shew the actual Imperial Revenue for 1862-63, as compared with those of 1861-62:—

	1862-63.	1861-62.
Land Revenue	53,51,400	53,18,997
Abkaree	6,61,323	8,01,840
Salt and Customs	14,26,062	12,30,686
Stamps	3,59,799	2,62,469
Income Tax	4,00,055	4,31,257
Forest Revenue	60,843	64,302
Miscellaneous Sayer	2,26,483	1,60,400
Rupees	84,85,965	82,69,951
£	848,596	826,995

It may be said that there is a general tendency to increase, and that the Revenues in these Provinces are flourishing.

CHAPTER V.

EDUCATION.

160. In my last Report, Chapter IV., I adverted, generally, to the condition of Education in these Provinces, as it then was. It was shewn, in regard to the component parts of the Central Provinces, that

in the late Saugor and Nerbudda Territories there was a system of State Education imperfectly adopted after the model of the North-Western Provinces, and inferior to the system actually existing in the North-West; that in the Districts of the late Nagpore Province there had been no State Education at all; that in Sumbulpore and its dependencies there existed only one School; that, in short, more than half of these Provinces were without education at all, and that the remainder possessed an incomplete system only. Since the submission of the last Report an Educational system has been organized and established, applicable uniformly to the whole country. I have now to shew how this system has been framed, and how far its results have been attained.

Educational machinery and system.

161. A Director of Public Instruction has been appointed to control the whole Department. He has his Head Quarters at Nagpore, and is in direct communication with the Chief Commissioner. The country has, for Educational purposes, been divided into three Circles;—namely, the Northern, comprising the Saugor and Nerbudda Districts, with Head Quarters at Jubbulpore; the Southern, comprising the Districts of the Nagpore Province Proper, with Head Quarters at Nagpore itself; the Eastern, comprising the Districts of Chutteesghur, Sumbulpore, and Upper Godavery, with Head Quarters at Raepore. Over each Circle there is appointed an Inspector; of the three Inspectors two are European Officers and one a Native. Under the supervision of the Officers thus constituted, the direct administrative control of all Government Schools (with certain exceptions), and the inspection of all private and indigenous schools, which may agree to be inspected by Government, are entrusted to the ordinary Civil Authorities,—that is, to the District Officers (or Deputy Commissioners as they are termed), —and under them, to the Officers in charge of Sub-divisions (termed Tehseeldars). The exceptions above-mentioned are Colleges, Normal Schools, Schools of a superior class at Head Quarters of Divisions and Book Depôts. All these Institutions are under the direct administration of the Director and his Circle Inspectors. In order to assist the Civil Authorities in the performance of their Educational duties, there is appointed in each District an Educational Officer (Native) termed District Inspector, who is subordinate to the Civil Authority (Deputy Commissioner), and inspects all the Schools within that District.

Educational Institutions.

162. Of Educational Institutions there are the following kinds:—

Colleges.—One High School at Saugor, with a College Department. District or Zillah Schools,—at the Head Quarters of each District. Normal Schools,—for the training of School-masters at certain Central Stations. Book Depôts,—at the Head Quarters of each Circle of Inspection. Aided Schools,—that is Schools receiving aid under the Grant-in-Aid Rules, existing in various places.	Under the administration of the Director and the Circle Inspectors.
Town Schools,—at all the Towns, great and small, in the interior of the country. Village Schools,—at all the principal Villages in the interior. Indigenous and Private Schools, either now existing, or to be gradually founded, in Towns and Villages all over the country.	Under the administration or supervision of the Civil Authorities, subject to the general control of the Educational Department.

Sources of Income.

163. For the support of the machinery thus sketched, the funds are derived from four sources—*first*, the Annual State Grant; *second*, the Cess levied at the rate of one per cent. on the Land Revenue; *third*, voluntary private subscriptions and contributions; *fourth*, fees levied from the parents of the children.

164. Previously to the year under report, 1862-63, the Educational Grant for the Saugor and Nerbudda Districts amounted annually to

Rupees 48,000, or £4,800; and the cost of the School in Sumbulpore amounted to about Rupees 2,000, or £200, per annum; so that the total State expenditure on education used to amount to Rupees 50,000, or £5,000, per annum. When the Nagpore Province was brought, for the first time, under State Education in 1862, the Government expenditure rose from Rupees 50,000 to Rupees 1,00,000 (one lakh), or £10,000; and this latter was the amount actually expended in that year. For the current year, 1863-64, the amount budgetted for amounts to Rupees 1,73,624, or £17,362.

165. The one per cent. Cess, above-mentioned, is levied by agreements made with the landholders at the assessment of the Land Revenue, the percentage being taken upon the amount so assessed. The Cess, therefore, rests on a firm basis, and is a certain source of income. Its amount, in these Provinces, stands at Rupees 51,004, or £5,100 per annum. It has been levied throughout the whole country, for the first time, during the year 1862-63. The third source, consisting of voluntary subscriptions and contributions, exists under a great variety of forms; the aggregate must be considerable, but it cannot be stated exactly, and indeed can never be estimated. Fees also are systematically realized in all Government Schools; their amount during the first year, 1862-63, has aggregated only Rupees 2,500, or £250, but it will increase yearly. The Book Depôts also form but a small ultimate charge to the State, inasmuch as the books are sold to masters, scholars and others requiring them, at a moderate discount.

166. Such being the Institutions to be supported, and such the means of support, I have to note, that the cost of the High School, the District or Zillah Schools, of the Town Schools, of the Normal Schools, of the Book Depôts, of the Grants-in-Aid, and of the General Departmental Establishment, is defrayed from the State Grant; whereas the cost of the Village Schools is defrayed from the one per cent. Cess.

Actual Educational result.

167. It is now necessary to note what was actually effected, upon these principles, up to the 30th April 1863, as shewn by the Returns; premising however, that that status has been rapidly changing for the better during every

subsequent month, and will continue so changing. On the 30th April 1863, then, there were Schools and Scholars as follows :—

Description of Schools.	Northern Circle, (Saugor and Nerbudda.)		Southern Circle, (Nagpore.)		Eastern Circle, (Chutteesghur.)		Total.	
	Schools.	Scholars.	Schools.	Scholars.	Schools.	Scholars.	Schools.	Scholars.
Colleges, High School with College Dept.	1	272	0	0	0	0	1	272
Normal Schools	4	107	3	51	2	32	9	190
District or Zillah Schools	2	280	4	456	2	227	8	963
Aided Schools	3	456	4	607	0	0	7	1,063
Town Schools	25	1,681	37	1,541	9	368	71	3,590
Village Schools	309	6,816	22	411	7	237	338	7,464
Indigenous Schools under inspection.	525	4,475	210	3,336	0	0	735	7,811
Total	869	14,087	280	6,402	20	864	1,169	21,353
Book Depôts	1	0	1	0	1	0	3	0

This gives a total of 1,169 Schools and 21,353 Scholars actually existing on 30th April. What the increased numbers may be up to date cannot, of course, be stated. But of the above, it is to be observed that in the Northern Circle (Saugor and Nerbudda) the 309 Village Schools

have, within the year, been entirely re-constituted, so as to be almost new Schools; while the indigenous schools have been brought under inspection for the first time within the year. The entire return for the Southern and Eastern Circles (Nagpore and Chutteesgurh) is almost entirely new. Then it is to be remembered that the new machinery could not be brought into play till the year was half expired; therefore this result, such as it may be, is the work of six months.

Proposed extension of Government Schools.

168. Since the 30th April, however, the date of these Returns, the system has been growing. Accordingly, the Schools which are being or immediately will be provided, may be as follows for the several Circles:—

Description of Schools.	Northern Circle, (Saugor and Nerbudda.)	Southern Circle, (Nagpore.)	Eastern Circle, (Chutteesghur.)	Total.
High School, with College Department -	1	0	0	1
Normal Schools - - -	4	3	2	9
District or Zillah Schools - -	2	4	2	8
Aided Schools - - -	3	4	0	7
Town Schools - - -	40	49	14	103
Village Schools - - -	309	146	41	496
Total - -	359	206	59	624
Book Depôts - -	1	1	1	3

This will give a total of 627 Institutions connected with Government for the whole of these Provinces, of which 360 would belong to the late Saugor and Nerbudda Territories, and 267 to the late Nagpore Districts with Sumbulpore. This may be termed (with the exception, perhaps, of the aided Schools) the regular Establishment of Government Schools for these Provinces.

Indigenous Schools.

169. There would remain the indigenous and private Schools under Government inspection. The number to which these Schools will amount cannot be accurately stated; it is to be hoped that they will increase indefinitely.

But so far as can be known at present, the following numbers may be reckoned on approximately :—

Indigenous and Private Schools under Government inspection.

Northern Circle (Saugor and Nerbudda)	612
Southern Circle (Nagpore)	210
Eastern Circle (Chutteesghur and Sironcha)	32
Total	854

Total number of Schools.

170. The total number of Schools, either supported by Government or indigenous, will stand as follows :—

Circles.	Government Schools.	Private and Indigenous.	Total.
Northern Circle (Saugor and Nerbudda)	359	612	971
Southern Circle (Nagpore)	206	210	416
Eastern Circle (Chutteesghur and Sironcha.)	59	32	91
Total	624	854	1,478

Some of these Schools are just commenced, or are about to be commenced shortly, or are in a state of development, that no accurate Estimate of the future number of pupils can be given. But if an average of 30 scholars be assumed,—and this is but a fair average,—then the number of scholars may reach to 44,400.

Proportion of Schools to population.

171. Now if the above result, which is all that can be hoped for at present from the combined efforts of the State and the people, be taken absolutely, it may appear considerable. But if it be compared with the actual requirements of the country, then the vastness of the need and the inadequacy of the means will be painfully manifest. There are 46 towns and 17,991 villages in these Provinces. With all

our efforts we can only manage 1,478 Schools of all kinds, that is, one School to every 12 towns or villages. How very small a proportion does the number of Schools bear to the number of villages! Again, if the population be assumed at eight millions, and the number of scholars of every kind at 44,400, then how very small is the proportion of educated youth to the mass of the people. Then if it be remembered that even these Schools will, for sometime, be very indifferent, and will shed but a feeble light, and that beyond their range all will continue to be darkness, the prospect is indeed chequered with light and shade.

Establishment of Normal Schools.

172. For the establishment of Schools, the first care has everywhere been to train Masters as professional persons. It may be difficult for any one who has not seen these Provinces to imagine the utter dearth there is of indigenous scholastic agency. There are really no School-masters, of even a humble kind to be got anywhere. They must either be obtained from other Provinces, or else be trained on the spot. Before a School can be opened, the Master must be trained. And even when facilities for training and permanent prospects are offered, candidates are not so numerous as might be expected, for the profession of School-master is *not* highly esteemed. Indeed, there exists a sort of prejudice upon the subject, which it will take some time to remove entirely. The fundamental step, then, has been to establish Normal Schools and thus to train Masters for the Town Schools and Village Schools. There now exist Normal Institutions at Saugor, Jubbulpore, Nursingpore, Hoshungabad, Nagpore, Bhundara, Chanda, Raepore, and Sumbulpore. From these, since their formation a few months ago, there have been already discharged about 84 men fairly trained and qualified for Masterships in Town and Village Schools; and they have been despatched to the interior to practice their calling there. There are now about 190 such students in all, and of these a certain number will be similarly despatched to the interior duly qualified, every six months, or even three months.

Erection of School-houses.

173. Another fundamental measure is the erection of School-buildings, which of course, are needed everywhere. School-houses are being built, or are built, at Seetabuldee (Nagpore), Saugor, Chanda, Bhundara, Seonee, Ramteak, Oomrair, Raepore, at the Cotton

Marts of Hinghunghat, Wurorra, Deolee, Nachengaon, Arvee, and many other minor places. Book Depôts are being built at Nagpore and Raipore. These buildings are defrayed partly from the Government Grant, partly from the one per cent. Cess fund, and partly from private subscriptions. In the interior, also, the landholders and other rural Chiefs are frequently induced to erect School-houses on their estates. Up to this time it is known that 20 Chiefs and landholders are building, or have undertaken to build School-houses. In several instances individuals have contributed handsome subscriptions; and those who thus contribute receive honor from the Local Authorities.

Character of Indigenous Schools.

174. The Masters of the private and indigenous Schools are, of course, very inferior men. But indifferent as they are, they may, with care and patience, be better than nothing, and that is all. If cared for, they will give a few feeble rays of light in their neighbourhood, until the time shall have come when regular village Schools can be established everywhere. It has been seen that our means will admit of our providing Schools for only a small proportion of villages; and even if we had the means of establishing more Schools, we could not find trained Masters for them. Thus all that can be done in many cases is to improve gradually the existing rude machinery. At present the indigenous Schools are operated upon in this wise:—They are visited by an Educational Inspector; if they agree to teach our books, and follow our system as nearly as they can, the Master receives a small retaining fee and a present of books; and the Inspection visits are frequently and regularly made. A large number of the indigenous Schools do thus agree, and are indeed only too glad to come under inspection. Of course they will never become as good as our own Schools, but they will become improved.

Schools maintained by Native gentry.

175. Efforts have been made, with more or less of success, to induce the Chiefs and principal landholders to found and maintain Schools for their people, and before long every man of this class will, probably, be persuaded to join the cause. The large Zemindars on the Chutteesghur Frontier are all preparing to establish Schools of their own. The most notable instances are, the Rajah of Deor (the representative of the Bhonslas), who is setting up a School in his own palace

in Nagpore, and has undertaken to maintain thirteen Schools on his estates in the neighbourhood; the Rajah of Bustar, who has set up a School at Jugdulpore, in the heart of his wild and remote territory; the Rajah of Sonepore, who has an English and Ooriya School on the banks of the Mahanuddy; and the Zemindar of Ahiree, who has founded a School in the interior of the Godavery District.

Educational employés.

173. As there does not yet exist any class from which the superior employés of the Educational Department could be drawn, it is necessary to obtain men from neighbouring Provinces, where kindred languages are spoken. Thus for the Saugor and Nerbudda Districts, where the Hindee language is spoken, men are obtained from Hindoostan; for the Nagpore Districts, where Mahratta is spoken, men are obtained from Bombay; for the Sumbulpore District, where Ooriya is spoken, men are obtain from Cuttack; for the Godavery District, where Teloogoo is spoken, men are obtained from the Eastern Coast. Of all the employés we have received, the Bombay men are, to my thinking, the best. Besides their own language, they know English well, and are imbued with those advanced and liberal ideas which flow from the study of European literature. Their presence will, assuredly, give a new impulse and a new life to the minds of the Natives of Nagpore.

Female Schools.

177. Of Female Schools there are as yet few; there number being only 5, with 133 scholars.

Languages taught in the Schools.

178. The languages taught in the Schools are, of course, diverse. In some few only, as yet, is English taught: such as the Saugor High School, where there are one experienced Head Master and two European Masters; the new Kamptee School, where an excellent European Master has been appointed; the Grant-in-Aid Schools, the Sumbulpore School, and in the Seetabuldee School, which is entirely for European and Eurasian children. The aggregate number of English scholars amounts to 911. But the study of English is commencing in several of the Town Schools, of which the scholars are not entered in the above Return. For the Seetabuldee School the services of a Master trained as an Army School-master have been obtained, and another well educated Master is on his way from England.

This School was inaugurated by the Bishop of Calcutta on the occasion of his Lordship's visit, and is named "the Bishop's School". There were on the 30th April 3,164 boys learning in the Oordoo language, 10,230 in Hindee, 4,952 in Mahratta, 79 in Ooriya, and 484 in Teloogoo. In the Nagpore Province about three-fourths of the boys were studying in Mahratta, and one-fourth in Oordoo.

The Bishop's School.

179. Of the aided Schools the Church Mission at Jubbulpore, under the Reverend Mr. Champion, is flourishing; and the Scotch Free Church Mission School at Nagpore (under the Reverends S. Hislop and J. G. Cooper) continues to be a blessing to that city.

Aided Schools.

180. It is believed that the increased use of the Mahratta language in the Courts of Nagpore, and the increased employment of Mahratta Officials, will give some impulse to education. At present there is the greatest difficulty in finding young Natives at Nagpore fit for the higher kinds of employment; but the coming generation will produce youths qualified by education to compete for the patronage, which, though accruing in their own country has yet been heretofore unavoidably bestowed on foreigners. Throughout these Provinces the lower grades in the Civil Departments have been unavoidably filled with men of deficient education. It has now been decided that no man shall be admitted even to the lowest grade in the Judicial and Fiscal Departments without passing a moderate Educational test, both as to Literature and Arithmetic. It has been already seen that, in the Police Department, the Privates cannot be promoted without being able to read and write, and that in every District there are Schools established departmentally for the education of the sons of Policemen.

Mahratta language.

Educational tests for Government employés.

181. The Book Depôts in the Northern and Eastern Circles are supplied from Calcutta and Allahabad; the Depôt in Southern or Nagpore Division is supplied from Bombay. Some Globes, Maps, and Illustrations of Physical Science and Natural Philosophy have been already received; and a large supply of these things from Messrs. Keith, Johnstone and Company, Geographers at Edinburgh, is on its way. The sale of Books

The Book Depôts.

has been considerable, in all 13,600 have been sold during the last few months, of which 5,476 were sold in the Nagpore Division alone.

182. In connection with the Educational Department, there has been formed a Central Museum at Nagpore. A suitable and handsome building is being erected for this purpose in the Station of Seetabuldee, and will soon be completed. Rupees 5,000 (£500) were contributed by the Government; the remainder of the cost will be defrayed from the Local Funds. The Office of Honorary Curator has been accepted by the Reverend S. Hislop, (Missionary of the Free Church of Scotland,) a gentleman of eminent acquirements. A committee of qualified gentlemen was appointed to consider the best mode of establishing a Museum and Public Library at Nagpore. It was decided that the Museum should be a repository for specimens of Nature and of Art. Under the head of Nature are to be classed specimens from the Animal, Vegetable, and Mineral Kingdoms. Under the head of Art there are to be collected models of implements and Machinery, Manufactures, Sculpture, Wood-carving, Antiquities, including Inscriptions, Reliefs, Statues, Coins; together with drawings and models of such specimens as cannot be actually procured. The Public Library is to be one of reference containing works of permanent interest connected with Education, Science and Art. A number of specimens under the headings above described have been already received from the various Districts.

Central Museum at Nagpore.

The Public Library at Nagpore.

183. Endeavour is being made to form an Antiquarian Society which might have its habitation in the Museum Building. There is, indeed, peculiar scope for the labors of such a Society in these Provinces. In the Introductory Chapter of my last Report, a sketch was given of the several historical periods and dynasties which has passed over this part of India. Of these earlier dynasties, perhaps even of these nations, there are no written records extant; the only means of tracing them are ruins and remains. But these materials of history, though often indistinct and difficult of interpretation, are numerous; and are scattered

Necessity for antiquarian research.

over almost all parts, even the wildest, of the country. There are Scythian or Druidical remains consisting of Formuli Cromlechs and Kistvaens, and identical in style and character with the remains of ancient Britain. It seems certain that the same aboriginal people, who, starting from Scythia, moved westwards to Scandinavia and Britain must also have penetrated southwards, even to this part of India. Their vestiges are discernible all round Nagpore, and even down to the banks of the Godavery below Sironcha. There are rock excavations believed to be Budhist on the Puchmurrée Hills, and Budhist remains are found in various other places. The earliest Hindoo remains are monolith pillars, apparently making the stages over long distances of pilgrims in the early ages marching to and from the sacred Mahadeo Cave near Puchmurree. There are stone carvings to be found throughout the Central Provinces, attesting the existence of several Hindoo dynasties of much higher oriental civilization than any thing that has since been seen, and apparently indicating a greater degree of wealth and prosperity than has been known in these latter generations. It is certain that many of the jungles of the present day in these Provinces, now infested by wild beasts, were once the scenes of architectural labor and centres of human activity. Succeeding these dynasties there were the Gond Kingdoms of inferior civilization, but still of considerable power. They also covered the mountain tops and interspersed the broad plains with forts, temples, and palaces, the broken remnants of which now serve as the sole monuments of their greatness. The Mahratta period which supervened has fallen within the scope of written history. But all the other periods can only be known by remains and ruins, which, saved as it were from the wreck of ages, have been left, under Providence, for our instruction, if we will but learn to read them. If, therefore, this unwritten history is ever to be known and collated, something like a system of antiquarian research must be established; and thus an Atiquarian Society, if well sustained, might succeed in concentrating the scattered rays of light into a focus, and thus disclose the annals of preceding systems both of Government and Society.

Scythian remains.

Early Hindoo remains.

Remains of buildings under Gond Dynasties.

CHAPTER VI.

PUBLIC WORKS.

184. This Chapter will treat of the various classes of Public Works in the following order:—

I.—Military Buildings.
II.—Civil Buildings.
III.—Roads, Communication, and Bridges.
IV.—Canals and Irrigation.
V.—Miscellaneous and Municipal Works.

185. The greater portion of the works are executed by the Public Works Department, but that portion of the works which are executed by the Local Committees are also under the ultimate supervision and control of the same Department.

SECTION I.—MILITARY BUILDINGS.

Military Buildings.

186. In my last Report, paragraph 233, it was stated that the Military Buildings were nowhere good, generally defective, just barely sufficient to carry on the service from year to year, and that the expenditure on these works had been, and continued to be, small. The expenditure for the year under review has amounted to Rupees 1,98,029, or £19,802. A large portion of this has been spent on repairs and petty works. The only works of importance have been the erection of some family quarters, an Artillery School-house and Plunge Bath at Kamptee; the drainage of swamps near the Barracks at Jubbulpore; and the commencement of Barracks at the Mohtoor Sanitarium.

187. Sanction of Supreme Government has been obtained to the erection of family quarters, which are urgently needed at Saugor and at Kamptee, at an aggregate expenditure of Rupees 2,50,000, or £25,000, at the two Stations within the current year. An additional lakh of Rupees, or £10,000, has been sanctioned from Imperial Funds for the construction of permanent Barracks. Saugor will probably be the Station selected for the erection of these Buildings.

Permanent Barracks.

188. The Mothoor Sanitarium was described in paragraphs 258 to 262 of my last Report. It was then stated that the construction of a Barrack to accommodate 25 or 30 European Soldiers was recommended. That recommendation has since been sanctioned by the Supreme Government, and some progress has been made with the actual work. It is hoped that the buildings will be ready for Troops by the next hot season. At present the Station has an Executive Engineer and two European Overseers, a Medical Officer, a Company of Sappers and Miners, with one European Officer, and a large gang of prisoners to supply the labor for local works. A site has been very carefully selected on a portion of the plateau, free from jungle, and by all appearances likely to continue salubrious at all seasons. The spot was visited in January last by the Commander-in-Chief of the Madras Army, Sir Hope Grant.

The Mohtoor Sanitarium.

189. I have during this last season examined the Puchmurree Hills which are opposite the Mohtoor Range, in company with various gentlemen of professional knowledge and local experience. We were much impressed with the excellence of the place as a site for a Sanitarium. At the end of May, in an open Bungalow, the temperature ranged from 76° to 86° Farenheit. The plateau, at an elevation of 3,600 feet above the Sea, is about six miles long and one mile broad. It reposes on a mass of magnificent sandstone formation, presenting bold and beautiful scenery. It is finely wooded. During the hot weather and winter it is fully equal to Mohtoor, and superior to it in beauty and interest. But Mohtoor will probably prove the more salubrious in the rainy season and the autumn, and that is a great advantage. Again, Mohtoor is easily accessible from Nagpore, whereas Puchmurree is not so, and indeed could

The Puchmurree Hills.

only be approached by a long detour. On the other hand, Puchmurree is much more conveniently situated in respect to Jubbulpore, and all the Nerbudda Stations. On the whole, I am prepared to recommend that a small Barrack be constructed experimentally at Puchmurree as well as at Mohtoor. It seems sufficiently certain that, whatever the climate of Puchmurree might be in the autumn, it would be excellent in the winter, spring, and summer. By roads which could be rendered passable without any great expense, Pachmurree would be 130 miles distant from Jubbulpore, 167 from Dumoh, 110 from Saugor, 77 from Nursingpore, and 53 from Hoshungabad. The nearest Station on the Railway between Nursingpore and Hoshungabad would be distant about 25 miles from the Hill.

SECTION II.—CIVIL BUILDINGS.

190. In my last Report, paragraphs 26 to 212, the then condition of Civil buildings in these Provinces was described. It was shewn that Court Houses had been generally constructed or were under construction. But other kinds of buildings were deficient or entirely wanting. Since then some progress has been made; but when so many other needs in respect to material improvements are pressing, it is not possible to devote more than a portion of our resources to Civil buildings.

Deficiency of Civil Buildings.

191. Within the year under review, 1862-63, the following buildings have been or are being constructed:—

Court Houses.

A Court House is being built for the Commissioner at Saugor; the Court Houses for the Deputy Commissioners at Bhundara, Belaspore, and Chanda, have been completed, and a Court House at Dumoh has been ordered to be commenced.

The Tehseelee or Court Houses for the Sub-Divisions, into which each District is divided, are of some importance, as much of the Civil business in the interior of the country is transacted in them. These Officers have generally been accommodated in Native buildings, which are found by experience to be wretched, and often little better than sheds. Some effort has been made of late to erect suitable buildings. In the Chutteesghur Division and Nagpore, where the want was most felt, eight of these Court Houses have been commenced on a standard plan; one has been commenced at Hurda near Hoshungabad, and one has been ordered in the Saugor District, and one (temporary) has been erected in the Sumbulpore District. Thus ten Court Houses, and all of this class, have been undertaken within the year. There remain 20 more to be undertaken before the complement of these buildings for all these Provinces will be complete.

Police Buildings.

192. It may be said that, except in a few places, the Police in these Provinces are without any building accommodation. A set of standard Plans and Estimates have been prepared for the accommodation of the entire Police Force, which will ultimately, when complete, involve an expenditure of 4 lakhs of Rupees, or £40,000. In the mean time buildings for the Police are being constructed at the Stations of Jubbulpore and Raepore, at a cost of Rupees 20,000, or £2,000.

Caravanserais.

193. In paragraph 269 of my last Report it was stated that Caravanserais for the accommodation of travellers were in most places wanting; some effort has been made to supply these where they were most needed. In the Nagpore and Chutteesghur Divisions thirteen of these buildings have been commenced during the year under review on a standard plan, at the most frequented stages on the main roads. They will cost Rupees 9,000, or £900 each.

194. The various Educational buildings undertaken within the year have been mentioned in the Chapter on Education.

195. The Jail buildings have been similarly mentioned in the Chapter on Jails.

196. The sums expended in 1862-63 on Civil buildings, inclusive of Jails, but exclusive of Educational buildings, has amounted to Rupees 1,21,440, or £12,144.

SECTION III.—COMMUNICATIONS.

Roads and Bridges.

197. In my last Report I explained the character and objects of the various roads in the Central Provinces. I have now to shew what has been, and is being, done on each line. It is to be borne in mind that—*firstly*, main lines are under the Department of Public Works; and, *secondly*, that the branch roads and lines are under the different Local Committees.

Lines of Trunk Road.

198. There are now four main or trunk roads under the Department of Public Works, namely, the Great Northern Road, the Southern Road, the Great Eastern Line, the North-West Road.

199. The Great Northern Road may be regarded as being in two main sections: that between Jubbulpore and the Khuttra Pass, near Mirzapore; and that between Jubbulpore and Nagpore, to each of which separate allusion will be made.

Road from Mirzapore to Jubbulpore.

200. From Jubbulpore to the Khuttra Pass the road was made and metalled some time ago. The bridges are now under construction, and attention is devoted to them alone. During the past year, 1862-63, four large bridges were constructed or commenced at a cost during the year of Rupees 23,984 (£2,398). One of those commenced was the bridge over the Tonse River, having five arches of 50 feet span. The sum set down in the Budget for the prosecution of these Bridges during the year 1863-64 is one lakh of Rupees, or £10,000; and this, with our present resources, is all that can be allowed. But it is noteworthy that no less than 146 bridges of various sizes, and some of them of first class, remain to be constructed at a cost of about six lakhs of Rupees, or £60,000. Thus, at the present rate of expenditure and progress, some six years would elapse before this great road could be really completed, and really open for traffic in the rains. The Railway, to which this road is to be an important feeder, may, perhaps, be opened within that period. The Estimates for the unfinished portion of bridges under construction amount to Rupees 66,000, or £6,600. Designs and

Estimates for new bridges to the amount of Rupees 64,000, or £6,400, are ready, or nearly ready. These two sums together make Rupees 1,66,000, or £16,600. If, therefore, financial means should permit, a far greater sum than that now set down in the Budget could be beneficially expended on the progress of this great Line.

Road from Jubbulpore to Nagpore.

201. From Jubbulpore to Nagpore, or rather to Kamptee, on the Kanhan River, the road is now considerably advanced. Of the total distance, 62 miles are complete in all respects; 31, though not complete, are so far advanced as to be open for traffic; 40 miles are under construction, and the remaining 18 miles have been surveyed, planned, and estimated for, and may be commenced as soon as means may permit. During the past year, 1862-63, Rupees 4,39,710, or £43,971, have been expended on this section; there remain about 7 lakhs of Rupees, or £70,000, required to complete it, of which 4½ lakhs of Rupees, or £45,000, are set down to be expended during the current year 1863-64. Among the works, the most remarkable are the bridges over the Wynegunga, having 12 arches of 50 feet span, and over the Kanhan, having 12 arches of 50 feet span. Of the Wynegunga Bridge eight arches are already turned; this work has chiefly been done during the past working season. Of the Kanhan Bridge the foundations are partly laid, and four piers are erected. At the Silba Pass near Jubbulpore, the road has been successfully carried up the side of Hills 264 feet high from the base. At Koraee, south of Seonee, the road will have to surmount the southern face of the Range, and for this Pass Designs and Estimates have been framed.

The Southern Road.

202. The Southern Road runs from Nagpore down the Valley of the Wurdah and through the Cotton Country, having branches to Hinghunghat, Deolee, and Arvee, all great Cotton Marts, and destined to connect all these rich Districts with the railway. This road also has been advanced considerably during the year under review, 1862-63. Of the total distance, 163¾ miles (branches included), 25 are completed in all respects; 68 miles, though not completed, are so advanced as to be open for traffic; 47¾ miles are under construction; 17 miles, though not commenced, are surveyed and estimated for; and the remaining 6 miles have yet to be

surveyed, as also three branches to join the different Railway Stations, the total length of which will be about 50 miles. The expenditure during 1862-63 on this road has amounted to Rupees 2,12,045, or £21,204. That set down for 1863-64 amounts to one lakh of Rupees, or £10,000. The amount required for completion, however, is 4 lakhs of Rupees, or £40,000. If means should be available, a fair proportion of this might be beneficially expended during the next season.

The Great Eastern Road.

203. The Great Eastern Road from Nagpore to Chutteesghur (of vast importance to trade) has been proceeded with; but owing to the mismanagement of the Executive Officers in charge, the progress made has disappointed our expectations. Out of a total distance of 230 miles, 5 have been completed; 17 miles, though not completed, have been so far advanced as to be opened for traffic; 56 miles are under construction; 52 miles, though not commenced, have been surveyed and estimated for; and 100 miles have yet to be surveyed. On this line most of the larger bridges were well constructed many years ago by the Mahratta Government. The expenditure in 1862-63 has amounted to Rupees 65,162, or £6,516, and that set down for 1863-64 amounts to one lakh of Rupees, or £10,000.

Road to Sumbulpore and the Mahanuddy.

204. A continuation of the Great Eastern Road is the line which runs from Chutteesghur to Sumbulpore, with a branch to the Mahanuddy at Binka, which is considered the navigable head of that river. Owing partly to want of means, and partly to the sickness of the Executive Officer, from malaria contracted in that jungly District, it has not been possible during the last season to make any appreciable progress on this line. Some 48 miles have, however, been surveyed and estimated for at a cost of nearly 2 lakhs of Rupees, or £20,000. Should these Estimates be approved by the Supreme Government, and should financial means be available, it would be possible to make a vigorous commencement during 1863-64.

The North-West Road.

205. The North-West Line runs from Nagpore toward Baitool and Hoshungabad, with a branch to Chindwara. On this line 20 miles have been completed. 10 miles, though not completed, are still so advanced as to be open for

traffic; 25 miles are under construction; and 27 miles, though not commenced, have been surveyed and estimated for; during the year under review Rupees 20,000, or £2,000, have been spent on this road; no large bridges have been constructed. The most interesting work on this line is the Silwanee Pass, where the road has been carried with great engineering skill up the side of the Hill Range to a height of 572 feet.

Present state of the main Roads.

206. Exclusive of the Jubbulpore and Mirzapore section, the state of which is exceptional, as already explained, the present condition of the four great lines under the Department of Public Works is as follows:—

	Miles.
Completed in all respects - - -	112
Opened for traffic, though not quite completed -	126
Under construction - - - -	168¾
Surveyed and estimated for, though not commenced -	162
Not yet surveyed - - - -	166
Total - -	734¾

Results of last season's operations.

207. The above represents the result of the operations of former years and the year under review taken together. The result for the year under review, 1862-63, if taken separately, will appear as follows:—

	Miles.
Completed in all respects - - -	75
Opened for traffic, though not quite completed -	104
Under construction - - - -	168¾
Surveyed and estimated for, though not commenced -	162
Not yet surveyed - - - -	166
Total - -	675¾

208. The total length of road, belonging to the Department of Public Works, under operation, within the working season of 1862-63,

(including miles completed or opened for traffic, or under construction, or surveyed,) amounts to 568¾ miles. Over this length of mileage the number of large bridges of more than 100 running feet water-way, either constructed or under construction within the year, amounts to 13, and of lesser bridges (exclusive of culverts) to 119.

Preparation of Designs and Estimates.

209. Within the same period also special efforts have been made to ensure such progress with the Surveys and Estimates, that these preliminary operations might be one twelve-month in advance of the actual commencement of work. During the year 274¾ miles of road have been surveyed and estimated for; of these many have within the same season been brought under construction. But it will have been seen, from the above Statement, that there are 162 miles surveyed but not commenced, and this quantity represents more than a twelve-month's work. Thus nearly all the works to be proceeded with during the coming season, 1863-64, has been already surveyed and estimated for. Experience shews that these essential preliminaries ought to be arranged at least some little time beforehand. If the Executive Engineers are busied with actual construction, they cannot give that time and thought which are necessary to the preparation of good Estimates. The best routine seems to be that Plans and Estimates should be made during one season, and the work executed during the next season. This principle has been followed during the past season for the main roads in these Provinces.

Road operations under Local Committees.

210. Besides the regular Department of Public Works, the Local Committees in the various Districts have operated upon a great number of Branch Roads, constructing some, improving others, and executing surface repairs in others. It is not necessary to shew the number of miles repaired, which must be very considerable, but in other more important branches of the work the aggregate result of the operations of the various Committees during the year 1862-63 may be thus shewn approximately:—

	Miles.
Completed in all respects	49
Opened for traffic, though not quite completed	15

Under construction	144
Improved and marked off	400
Total	608

The above Statement refers to roads in the interior of the country, and is exclusive of mere Station Roads and Streets in Cities, which latter will be adverted to separately.

211. The principal roads on which the Local Committees have been operating upon are as follows:—

The road from Jubbulpore to Raepore (the importance of which was explained in paragraph 285 of my last Report); the road down the Valley of the Godavery from Sironcha; the roads in the Valley of the Mahanuddy; the road from the Kuttungee Valley to Seonee on the Trunk Road; the roads in the interior of the Nagpore, Bhundara, and Jubbulpore Districts; and the direct road from Nagpore to Oomrawuttee, which will be of great consequence when the Railways shall be opened into the interior of Berar.

Aggregate length of roads under operation during the last season.

212. The combined result of the road operations by the Department of Public Works, and by the Local Committee during the season of 1862-63, may be thus exhibited:—

	Miles.
Completed in all respects	117
Opened for traffic, though not quite completed	119
Under construction	371¾
Surveyed but not commenced	162
Improved and marked off	400
Total	1,169¾

Thus it will be seen that, in one stage or other, no less than 1,169¾ miles of road have been under operations during the year 1862-63.

213. In the Statement appended to paragraph 291 of my last Report it was shewn that the total expenditure by the Department of Public Works on roads in these Provinces during previous years up

to May 1862 amounted to Rupees 12,84,175, or £128,417. The expenditure during 1862-63 has amounted to Rupees 7,60,910, or £76,091, and that allowed by Supreme Government for the expenditure of 1863-64 amounts to Rupees 9,31,044, or £93,104.*

Additional roads required.

214. In addition to the roads already mentioned, there is the line from Jubbulpore *vid* Dumoh to Saugor and thence to the Malthone Pass. This road is urgently needed to connect Saugor, our principal Military Station, with the Railway Terminus at Jubbulpore, and also for the increasing traffic which flows from the North-West to Jubbulpore. This should be undertaken by the Department of Public Works as soon as possible. In a Military and Political point of view, it is also very desirable to improve the road from Saugor to Nowgong in Bundlecund.

Paramount importance of road making in the Central Provinces.

215. In my last Report it was shewn how road making is among the most pressing needs of these Provinces, and yet, perhaps, of all matters under the cognizance of this Administration the most backward. The present Report will shew how, despite all the efforts that can be made, the distances to be operated on are really immense. Indeed, many hundreds of miles of road have yet to be made before these Provinces can rise to any thing approaching a par with the more advanced parts of India. It is, of course, difficult to find the financial means for prosecuting so many projects; but owing to the liberality of the Supreme Government, this difficulty has not been much felt. Again there is a scarcity of labor every where, and a still greater dearth of skilled Artisans. On the main line, however, these needs are ultimately supplied more or less. But the difficulty, which of all others I find it hardest to overcome, is that of finding a sufficient number of able Executive Officers, and of well trained and well conducted subordinate officials.

Section IV.—Railways and Tramways.

213. The three Lines of Railway in progress within these Provinces were described in paragraphs 292 to 296 of my last Report. They are—*first*, the Bombay and Jubbulpore Line; *second*, the branch to Nagpore; *third*, the Allahabad and Jubbulpore Line.

* Exclusive of all Establishments, which form a large item.

Progress of the Railway in the Nerbudda Valley.

217. That portion of the Bombay and Jubbulpore Line which lies within the Nerbudda Valley has been advanced during the last working season, though towards the Hoshungabad extremity of the valley, there was a difficulty in obtaining a sufficient number of laborers. The earth-work has been nearly completed, and the masonry works are in progress. The two greatest works are the bridges over the Nerbudda near Jubbulpore, and over the Towa River near Hoshungabad; both of these have been commenced. There remain, however, many bridges of various sizes to be constructed. The Contractors have been fortunate in exhuming at various places large quantities of excellent building stone from the remains of temples, edifices, and cities of ancient Hindoo Dynasties. These remains were generally found in shapeless masses, covered over with the earth which had accumulated through centuries. There has been considerable difficulty in selecting the site for the Terminus at Jubbulpore, and the matter is not yet settled. The sites for all the other stations have been duly selected. During the past year some 460,000 sleepers have been supplied to this Railway from the Forests of Bijeeragoghur near Rewa, of the Mundla Hills, and of the Baitool District. These are of Saj and Teak wood. The Line will, probably, not be opened to Jubbulpore until four years hence. At present Bhosawal, 330 miles distant from Jubbulpore, is the nearest point to which the Railway is open.

Progress of the Railway to Nagpore.

218. The branch Railway through Berar to Nagpore is advancing fast, the earth-work is nearly completed to Nagpore, and progress has been made with the masonry works. Excepting the bridge over the Wurdah, there is no work of magnitude on this Line within the Nagpore Province, and that is half finished. The sites for the Terminus at Nagpore, and of the other stations along the line, have been selected. Some 58,000 sleepers have been supplied for the Line from the Forest of Saj trees, which extend from the banks of the Pench River eastwards along the southern base of the Seenee Hills.

Traffic from Nagpore to Railway in Berar.

219. At present the nearest point from Nagpore up to which the Railway is open is Mulkapore, 228 miles distant. The Railway already attracts the Passenger traffic from Nagpore to Bombay, and

even the Goods' traffic from the Nagpore and Nerbudda country. Although the extremity of the completed Line is so far distant from Nagpore, yet the tide of exportation is steadily setting in towards that point. Already the trains to Bombay are over-freighted with the cotton of the Wurdah and Nerbudda Districts, and the oil-seeds of Chutteesghur. Even now the Rail can hardly carry the vast traffic which is seeking for means of export. It is hoped that within a twelve-month the Line will be open to a point near Oomraotee, within 150 miles of Nagpore, and in two years to Nagpore itself.

The Allahabad and Jubbulpore Line.

220. The Allahabad and Jubbulpore Line, having been surveyed, was commenced during this last season. Its sleepers will be supplied from the Saul Forests of Bijeeragoghur.

221. It is difficult to over-estimate the advantages which are expected to result to these Provinces from the construction of Railways, or to describe the keen interest with which the opening of the Line from Bombay to Nagpore, and to Jubbulpore, is awaited by all classes of the community, both European and Native.

Prospects of future supply of wooden sleepers to the Railways.

222. I may mention in this place that future difficulty is apprehended respecting the adequate supply of wooden sleepers and even of wooden fence posts for the several Railways. I understand that the Nagpore and Jubbulpore Railways will take upwards of 400,000 sleepers and 300,000 fence posts at the first construction, and thereafter this vast quantity will require renewal every five years. Quantities in similar proportions will be required for the Jubbulpore and Allahabad Lines. The following passages may be appropriately extracted from a recent Report by the Conservator of Forests, Captain Pearson. That Officer writes:—

"I cannot, however, help expressing the great anxiety I feel as "to the future supply of timber, and sleepers especially, to the Railway. "By the time even single Lines are laid to Nagpore and Jubbulpore, "the Forests near the Railway will be so stripped that, except at the "cost of absolute ruin, it will be impossible to cut any sleepers in them "for fifteen or twenty years to come, and even from more distant sources

"the expense of supplying another complete set of sleepers for the "Railway would be enormous.

"It would cost about Rupees 5 (ten shillings) per sleeper to deliver "Saul wood sleepers from the Mundla Forests at Jubbulpore, if they "had to be carted all the way; and these Forests are by no means "inexhaustible. I really cannot tell where the sleepers would come "from if a double line of Rails were ordered to be laid down.

"I have no hesitation in saying, that to renew the Central India "Lines, or lay a double line of Rails would be an operation involving far "greater difficulties and cost than most people have any idea of. The "timber would come from a great distance, indeed I do not know any "resources except the distant Saul Forests of Mundla and Rewa, which "would stand the drain. There is a good deal of Kowah (Terminalia Arjuna) "along the River bank. This has not yet been much tried for sleepers, "but it possibly may serve the purpose***; still all this will never suffice "to meet the permanent demand***. It is important to turn attention "to the possibility of obtaining a good scheme for an *Iron* permanent "way***; either Iron sleepers or sleepers from Norway or Australia, "must be employed.

223. In my last Report, paragraphs 297 to 304, a brief sketch was given of possible Tramways in these Provinces. Since then the question has not advanced to any practical stage. It is now thought that the most promising Line would be that from Chutteesghur to Nagpore. The enormous productive powers of Chutteesghur, and the quantity of surplus produce, as evidenced by the extreme cheapness of grain, have been frequently mentioned in my last Report. The increase of the area sown with cotton in the Wurdah Valley and in Berar, which increase displaces a corresponding quantity of grain, will, doubtless, cause an enhanced demand on the granaries of Chutteesghur, and consequent exportation of grain from that District towards Nagpore. If, then, Chutteesghur were to become one of the indispensable sources of the supply of food to the population of the cotton-growing Districts, the construction of a Tramway from thence to Nagpore might merit consideration. The trade between Chutteesghur and Nagpore is carried partly by country carts, and partly by pack bullocks, by three roads running parallel to

each other. It has been ascertained by an Establishment posted at selected points to note the traffic as it passed. These accounts, too, have been compared with Estimates made by the principal Native Traders. The result may be stated as follows :—

	Export.			Import.		
	Bulk.	Value.		Bulk.	Value.	
Articles.	Maunds of 82 lbs. each.	Rupees.	£	Maunds of 82 lbs. each.	Rupees.	£.
Grain ...	650,000	500,000	50,000	„	„	„
Cotton ...	20,000	390,000	39,000	„	„	„
Brass Vessels..	„	„	„	11,300	6,000	600
Sugar ...	„	„	„	990	13,000	13,000
Cocoanuts ...	40,000	100,000	10,000	„	„	„
Bullion ...	„	„	„	„	500,000	50,000
Miscellaneous...	85,000	30,000	3,000	2,710	1,000	100
Total ...	795,000	1,020,000	102,000	15,000	5,20,000	52,000

The value of grain and cotton has been assumed at the prices current in Chutteesghur, which are very low. The amount of bullion imported has been obtained, not from the Trade Returns, but from wealthy traders engaged in the traffic between Chutteesghur and Nagpore.

SECTION V.

CANALS AND IRRIGATION.

Special enquiries regarding Canals and Reservoirs.

224. In my last Report, paragraph 305, it was stated that Canals do not exist in these Provinces, and that it was not then known whether any could be advantageously constructed. During the year under review, 1862-63, on the appointment of a special officer as Superintendent of Irrigation, particular enquiries have been made on this important subject. The Officer is Mr. S. Hanna, Civil Engineer, a gentleman who gained valuable experience in the Canal Department of the Punjab.

225. These enquiries shew that Reservoirs can be formed at the point where the Kunhan River and its affluent the Pench debouch from the Sautpoora Hills, north of Nagpore, and that thence Canals could be conducted down the Cotton Districts in the Valley of the Wurda, and down the plain of Nagpore to the Wyn Gunga, these two tracts being the very richest parts of the Nagpore Province. A Sketch Map of these possible projects is annexed.

The Kunhan and the Pench Rivers.

226. It will be seen that both the Kunhan and the Pench rise in the heart of the Sautpoora Range near the cluster of Hills, now so well known by the names of Puchmuree and Mohtoor. Then turning south-eastwards, through the upland undulating plains of the Chindwarra District, they ultimately find passages through the Valleys which intersect the southern face of the Range. The Kunhan debouches finally from the Hills near Khelode, and the Pench near Doongurthal. They then unite their streams at a point a little above the Station of Kamptee. Then flowing south-eastwards, the united stream joins the Wyn Gunga near Bhundara. It has been ascertained with certainty that large reservoirs, containing vast quantities of water, can be formed without any extraordinary difficulty, and without any excessive cost, in the Valleys near Khelode and Doongurthal, by damming up the Kunhan and Pench respectively.

227. From a reservoir near Khelode, it would be practicable to conduct a Canal past Nagpore into the Valley of the Wunna Stream, which is an affluent of the Wurda, and passes by Hingun Ghaut, and thence down the Valley of the Wurda to Chanda. The total length of such a Canal would be about 130 miles, and about 150 square miles of highly culturable country might be irrigated from it. It would not be possible to carry a Canal from the Pench Valley across the country on the left bank of the Wurda, because the Pench Valley is at a much lower level. But a Canal from the Pench could be conducted eastward with every facility down the Valley of the Wyn Gunga. The length of such a Canal would be about 35 miles, and about 80 square miles of highly cultivated country might be irrigated from it.

Storage of the waters of the Kunhan and of the Pench.

228. Regarding a possible reservoir near Khelode for the storage of the waters of the Kunhan, Mr. Hanna thus writes :—

The Reservoir proposed near Khelode on the Kunhan.

"The very place in the Valley to which, on account of the level "of the ground, it is necessary to look for the head of a Canal is "wonderfully favored as a site for the formation of a great artificial "Lake. Some 15 or 20 miles higher up the course of the river the Hills "on each side hang close to its banks and narrow the limits of the "Valley ; but from this point their distance increases, the main range "running to the east, while the opposite Hills extend themselves to the "south, leaving the river to ramble in the centre of the plain. Lower "down the spreading plain is twice remarkably intersected by protrud-"ing spurs as almost to thwart the Valley * * * * ; a heading up "of 60 feet high would probably throw the water over fifty-four square "miles, and a heading up 110 feet high would produce the same effect "for 94 square miles. * * * The capacity of the reservoir formed by a "dam 110 feet high would give an useful storage space of 72 billions of "cubic feet. The loss by evaporation, calculated at 8 feet per season "over the mean surface, would amount to about 12 billions of cubic feet, "leaving 60 billions of cubic feet as the quantity available to be dealt "out to the Wurda over a period of 300 days. This last quantity is less "by 40 billions of cubic feet than the computed smallest available rain-fall."

229. The catchment basin of the reservoir is ascertained to extend over 1,800 square miles, which represents a vast surface of drainage; and the above calculations are made on an estimated average rain-fall of 30 inches per annum. The length of the dam would be 2,000 yards or 1¼ mile. After being conducted from the reservoir by means of an artifical outlet channel in a direction nearly due south, would, for the first 20 miles of its course, cross the valley or basin of the Kunhan. Then it would enter a trap-rock ridge near Nagpore, the summit of which would be a hundred feet above the bed of the channel, and would be carried through this ridge for a distance of 7 or 8 miles, partly by an open cutting and partly by a Tunnel. Emerging from this, it would join the Valley of the Wurda at about the 25th mile of its course. Then it would flow for some miles in the natural channel of the Wunna, one of the affluents of the Wurda. After that an irrigation canal head might be formed at a point near Bhoree, which might thence be carried right down the Valley to Chanda. Excepting the interval of the trap-rock ridge, it would pass through and irrigate a fertile and well inhabited country throughout its whole course from the reservoir, till it joined the Wurda. That portion of the water which might be required for the supply of the Wurda might pass down the Wunna, and enter the Wurda near Hingun Ghaut.

Probable effect of the Khelode Lake on the navigation of the Wurda.

230. It appears certain that the Khelode Lake thus described would suffice both to irrigate the fertile Valley of Wurda, and also to flush that river, so as to render it perfectly navigable above the third Barrier. But it is to be remembered that the formation of the reservoir alone would not subserve the purposes of the Wurda navigation, as there is no natural channel from Khelode to the Wurda Valley. Thus the water must be carried by the confined channel and Tunnel through the ridge before it can reach the water shed of the Wurda. In this point of view, a reservoir *and* a canal *must* be made together. The expense of the two works would, of course, be very considerable, but the double advantage both of navigation and irrigation would be vast.

And of the Godavery.

231. But the Khelode Reservoir might be made to supply the Godavery *below the junction of the Wyn Gunga*, and this without any canal, as the

water would pass into the Kunhan, and thence into the Wyn Gunga, Whether, however, its storage would suffice to supply the Godavery during the *whole* of the dry season is doubtful. But, at least, the supply would be of considerable assistance.

Reservoirs for storing the Pench water near Doongurthal.

232. The water from the Pench Reservoir near Doongurthal could not, by reason of the relative levels, be conducted into the Valley of the Wurda. But it could supply the Godavery, being conducted down the natural channel of the Pench, Kunhan and Wyn Gunga. Here again, however, it is as yet doubtful whether the storage would suffice to supply the Godavery during the whole of the dry season, though it would certainly be ample for a canal, as already described.

233. It is hoped that both the Pench and Kunhan projects may be matured during the next working season, so that reliable Estimates of cost may be obtained.

Possible Canal in the Valley of the Mahanuddy.

234. In the Chapter on Navigation I shall have occasion to mention the projected Canal in the Valley of the Mahanuddy, which will be as useful for irrigation as for navigation. It is sufficient here to state that there is a project for such a Canal 150 miles long, which will irrigate the best tracts in the Sumbulpore District and its Dependencies.

Proposed Irrigation Canal near Bhudrachellum.

235. There is also a project formed by Captain Haig, the Superintending Engineer of the Godavery Works, for an Irrigation Canal from Bhudrachellum to the Sibree junction, a distance of forty miles. The valley at that point is rich and well adapted for profitable irrigation. The project is a promising one, the levels are suitable, and the ground highly favorable.

Proposed Reservoirs for irrigating the Kuttungee Valley.

236. In respect to other works of irrigation, much general enquiry has been made during the year. The most promising projects of this nature are those which relate to the Kuttungee Valley. This valley is a remarkable tract lying along the southern base of the

Sautpoora Range, North of Nagpore. It will have been seen that the Pench forces its way almost at a right angle through the southern face of the Range. From that point eastward the base of the Hills is fringed by dense forests and jungles, and the land is generally unculturable. But after some distance this great belt of Forest terminates in a ridge, and is succeeded by rich lowlands which stretch along the foot of the Hills, receiving their drainage; and which extend eastward, till they join the Valley of the Wyn Gunga, shortly after the debouchér of that river from the same Hills. This submontane tract is called the Kuttungee Valley. It has been chiefly reclaimed within the last thirty years, is fast increasing in cultivation and population, sending its surplus strength of men to labor in the public works; and with good management it may become one of the gardens of the Central Provinces. Its products are chiefly grain and sugar-cane. It has many small tanks, but these do not suffice to provide the permanent irrigation which is required. Now two valleys have been found traversed by streams running down from the Hills, and capable of being dammed up and formed into large reservoirs, from which irrigation might be easily conducted over hundreds of the Kuttungee villages. These sights were originally suggested by the Deputy Commissioner, Captain W. B. Thomson. One of them has been visited by Mr. Hanna and pronounced practicable. I have also been over it myself. The other site was shewn to me by the landholders themselves, who declared that they had long thought of the plan, and earnestly hoped that the government would undertake it. During the next working season it is intended to mature both these projects, and to frame reliable Estimates of cost.

Projected reservoir near the Bagh Nuddee.

237. In the Hills near the Bagh Nuddee, on the western limits of Chutteesghur, there is a basin where a large reservoir of many square miles in area might be formed at a comparatively trifling cost, by blocking the one outlet by which alone the waters can escape. From such a reservoir a valley containing twenty-two villages might be irrigated. The project has not been matured, but it is pronounced practicable by Engineer officers, who have seen the place. At the request of some of the neighbouring landholders, I visited the spot and found the remains of materials of an unknown period, which must have been collected by some former dynasty with a view to this very work. The

people declared that their villages, now poor, would be quadrupled in produce if this work were carried out.

238. The supervision and repairs of the lesser tanks in the Nagpore Province have been mentioned in the preceding chapter relating to Land Revenue, paragraph 138.

SECTION VI.

Miscellaneous and Municipal Works.

239. The miscellaneous and municipal works throughout these Provinces are managed by the Local Committees. In many districts these Committees have devoted themselves with marked success to municipal improvement during the year under review. Some of the more prominent instances may be mentioned here.

240. At Nagpore itself the most progress has been effected. No less than five broad streets have been made right through the very worst parts of the city, due compensation having been paid to the owners of the huts and hovels which had to be demolished. The new streets have metalled roadways and masonry drains; and substantial houses are being erected by the people themselves facing both sides. Two large squares for handsome market places have been opened in the heart of the City, the requisite spaces having been cleared for that purpose. A complete conservancy system has been established, the drainage has been improved, and several masonry sewers have been constructed. A new market place of considerable size has also been constructed at Seetabuldee. The great tank (or rather lake) near the city has been enlarged and improved by extensive excavations, and three new tanks have been constructed in the station of Seetabuldee. The Agri-horticultural Society's

Municipal works at Nagpore.

Garden has been greatly extended. Roads, a serpentine water, and bridges have been added to it. In four distinct places in the vicinity of Nagpore, half deserted and half ruined gardens, buildings and summer houses, constructed by the former Mahratta Dynasty, have been repaired and improved at considerable cost, so as to be fitted for public gardens. For the convenience of the inhabitants of the large bazaars in the neighbouring Cantonment of Kamptee, there have been constructed a large tank, a market place, and a caravanserai. In addition to these various works, there are the several caravanserais, branch roads and bridges around the City of Nagpore, the mention of which has been included in other sections of this Chapter. Within the year no less than Rupees 3,84,275 or £38,427 have been spent on municipal improvements in and about Nagpore.

Public Gardens at Saugor.

241. The Saugor Lake was mentioned in my last Report, paragraph 313. At one extremity of this a large swamp had gradually formed itself right between the City and Civil Station, proving equally detrimental to both. This noxious marsh is now being converted partly into a public garden on a large scale, and partly into serpentine water connected with the lake. The garden will serve as a nursery of young trees for arboriculture throughout the Saugor District. This work will cost Rupees 25,000 or £2,500; it will not only prove an ornament, but also a sanatory benefit to this important locality.

Municipal works at Hingun Ghaut.

242. The town of Hingun Ghaut has heretofore been an agglomeration of thatched huts; the streets were wretched beyond the possibility of improvement, and the place periodically suffered from destructive fires. After the last fire, the people agreed to build houses in well laid out streets, on good ground near the old town, if they could obtain assistance from the local funds in respect to supply of water. A large tank and some wells are accordingly being constructed, and a new town is springing up around them. On the same spot various public buildings, such as the Tehseel Court house, the Caravanserai, and the School-house, are being erected. Thus by degrees Hingun Ghaut will become renovated.

243. At Jubbulpore a new high street with a square and a mar-

Improvement at Jubbulpore and other places.

ket place have been constructed. At Seonee two market places and a large tank are being constructed. At Bhundara a broad and well drained street has been opened out right through a long and straggling town. At Chanda an anicut with bridge is being built across a stream, which will ensure an excellent supply of fresh water to the City. The new town and station of Sironcha have been laid out, and a tank excavated.

At Raepore streets, long and broad, are being formed, a market place is being constructed, and a swamp which extends from the city to the cantonment is ordered to be drained, so that ground, now covered with rank malarious vegetation, may become fitted for garden cultivation. Various minor improvements are being effected in the towns of Hoshungabad, Hurda, Ramteak, Oomrair, Belaspore and Sumbulpore.

244. The setting of Towns and Cities in order is probably of more importance to the civilization of the people than is at first sight apparent. The notorious deficiencies of Native Rule and Native institutions in this particular respect have been as great in this part of India as anywhere. It behoves us to give special attention to the subject, and it is satisfactory to state that there are few towns or stations in these Provinces, where the Local Authorities have not made a stride in Municipal improvement within the year under review.

Improvement of Ferries.

245. Owing to the number of unbridged streams, during the rainy season, it has been necessary to give special attention to the Ferries, which are very deficient in many parts of these Provinces. The Local Officers were urged to establish boats at the various points where such means of crossing might be needed. The number of additional boats of various kinds which have been provided within the year for the various Ferries in these Provinces, may be stated approximately at 40.

SECTION VII.

TOTAL OF PUBLIC WORKS.

246. This Chapter may conclude with the following Abstract of Expenditure of all kinds on Public Works during the past two years:—

Aggregate expenditure on Public Works for the past two years.

			Military Works	Civil Works.	Roads.	Establishment.	Advances for Stock.	Total expenditure.	Budget allotment.	Local Works.	Grand Total expenditure.
1861-62		Rupees	91,958	61,893	4,92,932	2,85,190	4,13,399	13,45422	14,98000	*	13,45,423
		£	9,196	6,189	49,293	28,519	41,340	134,542	149,800	...	134,542
1862-63		Rupees.	1,98,029	1,21,440	7,60,910	3,53,603	1,99,665	16,33647	18,11000	4,07,309	21,40,956
		£	19,803	12,144	76,091	35,360	19,966	163,364	1,81,000	40,731	2,15,095
	From the one per cent. Income Tax grant	Rupees	...	...	1,33,111	...	1,79,000	3,12,111	3,51,500	..	3,12,111
		£	...	...	13,311	...	17,900	31,211	35,150	...	31,211
	Total	Rupees	1,98,029	1,21,440	8,94,021	3,53,603	3,78,665	9,45,758	21,62500	4,07,309	21,49,037
		£	19,083	12,144	89,420	35,360	37,866	94,575	216,250	40,730	214,303

* There was some expenditure, but its amount cannot accurately be ascertained.

The above expenditure is exclusive of the Godavery.

247. For the current year 1863-64, the Budget allotment, *inclusive* of the Godavery, amounts to 26 lakhs of Rupees, or £260,000. The expenditure from Local Funds will be about 6 lakhs of Rupees, or £60,000. The grand total for 1863-64 will be about 32 lakhs of Rupees, or £320,000.

Expenditure for the current year.

CHAPTER VII.

POST OFFICE.

248. The Postal Lines in these Provinces are well arranged, and

A Post Master General required for these Provinces.

the Post Office Department is generally efficient. The control and supervision of the Department is, doubtless, susceptible of improvement. The superior Departmental Authorities are, under existing arrangements, too remote to be of real service. During the year under review I suggested to the Director General of Post Offices in India the desirability of having a Post Master General for the Central Provinces, provided that such an arrangement could be effected without any considerable expense. The isolation of these Provinces from other parts of India; the vast extent of Postal Lines within their limits; the difficulty of maintaining rapid communication during the inclement seasons, render it probable that, if a Post Master General, controlling all the Post Offices in Central India, were resident at the Head Quarters of the Civil Administration, a variety of reforms would be gradually introduced.

The new Post Offices opened.

249. Two new Post Offices have been established within the year—one at Belaspore, the other at Sironcha. It is probable that the approach of the Railway from Bombay towards Omraotee will cause an alteration of the Postal arrangements between Nagpore and Bombay.

250. The subject of bringing the receipt and distribution of letters in the interior of districts, now conducted by the Civil Authorities, under the control and management of the Post Office Department has been mooted by the Director General of Post Offices during the last few months. If the change shall be carried out, it would, no doubt, be attended with an increased correspondence and public benefit among classes who now hardly use the Post Office at all.

CHAPTER VIII.

Electric Telegraph.

Inefficient state of the Lines.

251. In my last Report, paragraph 322, it was stated that the Electric Telegraph Lines in these Provinces are absolutely inefficient during the rainy season, that is for four or even five months of the year,

From the commencement of the monsoon the lines are virtually almost closed: indeed, the uncertainty and the frequent delays have been so great as to render the Electric Telegraph worse than useless for months together. In September last I specially addressed the Director General of Electric Telegraphs in India on the subject, showing that, out of a period of 124 days, the line had been closed for 68 days, or about fully half the period. During the past working season some efforts were made to improve the line; but during the present monsoon the communication is not much better than during the last. I do not desire to impute any blame to the authorities concerned, as departmental difficulties, doubtless, exist. But the actual result is unsatisfactory.

Lines from Jubbulpore to Saugor and in the Valley of the Godavery.

252. The expediency of constructing an Electric Telegraph Line from Jubbulpore to Saugor (mentioned in paragraph 324 of my last Report) has been admitted. The line has not actually been constructed as yet. A line from Sironcha down the Godavery to Doomagoodium, the Head Quarters of the Navigation Works, and thence to Rajahmundry and Cocanada, will be essential to the due control of the important public works in progress, and to the success of departmental operations. Cocanada on the Coast is the basis of operations to Doomagoodium, and supplies much of the labour and materials for the Navigation Works of the Upper Godavery. It is, therefore, important that the Superintending Engineer at Doomagoodium should have means of rapid communication with his Agents on the Coast. At many seasons it is of the greatest consequence to know immediately the rise and fall of the River at different points. For instance, when the freshes are coming down in one part of the river, it is necessary that those in charge of works in other parts should have instant intelligence.

CHAPTER IX.

MARINE AND NAVIGATION.

253. During the year 1862–63 two matters, as deeply affecting the future commercial interests of these Provin-

Navigation of the Rivers Godavery and Mahanuddy.

ces, have occupied much attention. They are *first*, the navigation of the River Godavery; *second*, the River Mahanuddy. It will be proper to advert to each of these in order.

Control of the Upper Godavery Works entrusted to this Administration.

254. By a Resolution of the Government of India, dated 29th December 1862, the control of the Navigation Works and Establishments on the Upper Godavery River was entrusted to the Administration of the Central Provinces. In the months of August and September 1862. I travelled up and down the River, from the Falls of the Wurda near Hingun Ghaut in the Nagpore Province to Cocanada the sea-port. During that tour I had the advantage of conferring with Captain Haig and all the Officers of the Navigation Department. Thereafter, in January 1863, I submitted to the Supreme Government a Report on the river, on the trade and circumstances of the countries adjacent to it, and on the projects of improving the navigation. The orders of the Supreme Government have been received, prescribing the manner in which the various works are to be proceeded with. It is now necessary that I should briefly recapitulate the substance of that Report and of the orders received thereon.

The Godavery and its affluents.

255. The great natural drainage system, which consists of several rivers converging on the Godavery and then flowing in an united stream to the sea, may be set forth :—

Rivers.	Total Miles.	Unnavigable or difficult of navigation.	Navigable for half the year only.	Remarks.
Wurdah.....	250	149	101	
Pyne Gunga.....	320	314	6	
Wyn Gunga.....	430	430	0	
Pranheeta.....	90	35	55	
Godavery Proper...	650	630	20	
Godavery Great....	250	34	216	Including Dowlaishwaram Canal
Indrawutty.....	300	300	0	
Tal.....	120	115	5	
Sibree.....	200	180	20	
Total.....	2,610	2,187	423	

It abates somewhat from the highest hopes which might be formed for improvement in this country to reflect on the comparatively small proportion out of so vast a river system, which is known to be good for navigation so far as our information goes.

The navigable portions of the river.

256. The main line of proposed water communication on the Godavery may be stated as follows :—

	Miles.
From Falls of the Wurda to Head of 3rd Barrier ...	101
The length of the Barrier	35
From foot of 3rd Barrier to Head of 2nd Barrier ...	75
The length of 2nd Barrier	14
From foot of 2nd Barrier to Head of 1st Barrier ...	68
Length of 1st Barrier to Bhudrachellum	20
From Bhudrachellum to Dowlaishwaram	98
From Dowlaishwaram to Cocanada on the Sea by Canal	34
Total ...	445

Countries of which the trade is affected by the navigation.

257. The countries of which the trade will be affected by the opening of the navigation are, the country of Nagpore Proper, the country of Chutteesghur and the valley of the Godavery itself. I do not mention Berar, because it is understood here that all its requirements will be supplied by the Railway thence to Bombay. But as Berar does not belong to this administration, it is not necessary that I should allude further to the bearings of the Godavery Navigation Project upon that Province. As regards Nagpore, the matter of absorbing interest is, without doubt, the opening of the Railway to Bombay. But if the Godavery route were fairly opened, it is probable that quantities of the Nagpore produce might prefer the river to the Rail. The Nagpore Province, indeed, if properly developed, might find work for both. Again as the Nagpore Troops belong to the Madras Presidency, stores of all kinds and many reinforcements would come by the Godavery route. As regards the valley of the Godavery itself and its affluents, the importance of the navigation project is as great, if not

greater than ever. On the whole the project would affect mainly the interests of the Central Provinces, and some parts of the Nizam's Dominions. It would stimulate production in the Nagpore Province, would cause population to increase in the Southern Districts especially, and would give rise to a great trade with the Eastern Coast of the Madras Presidency.

Trade of the Nagpore Province.

258. The trade of Nagpore may be stated approximately as follows :—

Exports.	Maunds of 82 lbs.	Value.	Imports.	Maunds of 82 lbs.	Value.
			Trade with Bombay.		
		Rupees.			
Cotton ...	85,000	13,00,000	Salt ...	200,000	10,00,000
Linseed ...	100,000	2,50,000	European Piece-goods ...	...	7,00,000
Gingelly ...	50,000	1,50,000	Bullion { Silver.	...	5,00,000
Horns ...	...	5,000	Bullion { Gold ..	...	10,00,000
Hides (latterly only		5,000	Silk ...	1,200	1,00,000
Ghee or clarified	...	1,50,000	European stores.	7,000	2,00,000
butter ...	10,000	5,000	Articles of hard-ware, brass and		
Red ochre ...	3,000	10,00,000	copper vessels ..	5,000	1,00,000
Coarse cloth ...			Dyes ...	1,000	50,000
			Miscellaneous ...	35,000	2,00,000
			Trade with Calcutta.		
Hides ...	...	50,000	Bullion { Silver.	...	...
			Bullion { Gold ..	...	5,00,000
			Sugar ...	20,000	3,50,000
			Articles of hard-ware, brass and copper vessels, &c. ...	5,000	20,000
			Silk ...	4,000	3,00,000
			European piece-goods ...	...	4,00,000
			Miscellaneous ...	5,000	25,000
			Trade with Eastern Coast.		
			Military stores about ...	500 Tons	
			Tobacco and cloth ...	...	30,000
			Cocoanuts ...	...	1,00,000
Total Exports ...	...	29,15,000	Total Imports...	...	55,75,000

The total value may be estimated at 85 lakhs of Rupees, or about one million sterling per annum.

259. How far, then, would this traffic be affected by the navigation projects, it being remembered that the Railway will soon be opened from Bombay to Nagpore? If the obstacles of all the three barriers of the Godavery were removed, and all parts of the project completed, there would be river navigation from the sea coast to Hingun Ghaut for, at least, a part of each year. If the two first barriers were removed, and not the third or upper barrier, there would still be navigation up to foot of 3rd barrier within 75 miles of Chandah and 118 of Hingun Ghaut. Now it has been shown in my detailed Report that if the river were open to Hingun Ghaut according to known rates as now existing, then carriage to Cocanada would amount to Rupees 11-9-8 per ton; and to Bombay by Rail to Rupees 34-6-0 per ton. So far the difference is greatly in favor of the river; but if the river were only open to foot of the 3rd barrier, then by this route, partly land and partly water, the cost of carriage from Hingun Ghaut to Cocanada would amount to Rupees 26-6-3, or from Cocanada to Hingun Ghaut (up river), Rupees 29-9-9. In that case there would only be a slight difference in favor of the river. The general conclusion appears to be that, as regards the bulky produce of southern part of Nagpore, the water carriage, if available to and from Hingun Ghaut, would have a decided advantage over the Railway; and that, if it were opened only to the foot of the 3rd barrier, it would be able to compete with the Rail. As regards, however, the rich country round Nagpore itself, the river, if open to Hingun Ghaut, could compete with the Rail for the heavier traffic; but if the river were open only to foot of the 3rd barrier, then the Rail would have the advantage. For the lighter and the more valuable goods traffic, or for the passenger traffic, there does not appear to be any chance of the river being, under any circumstances, able to compete with the Rail from Bombay to Nagpore.

Comparative transit charges by River and by Rail.

260. It is, of course, impossible to calculate the extent to which the present trade would grow when good communication shall be opened to the Coast. There would, however, be, doubtless, an increase in the exportation of iron, linseed and oil-seeds, sugar, hides and the like. There would also be a considerable importation of salt by this route, inasmuch as

Prospects of future Trade.

water carriage would cause a saving of more than 50 per cent. in the cost of salt to the Consumer in the southern parts of the Nagpore Province. In the carriage of Military stores there would be great saving to Government. By the present route, the transit cost is Rupees 138 a ton from Masulipatam to Nagpore. If the navigation of the Godavery were open to foot of the 3rd barrier, this cost would be reduced to Rupees 47-13-0, or to Rupees 31-11-5 if it were open to Hingun Ghaut.

Future transit of Cotton.

261. Of cotton there would be a large supply available for export either by Rail or by river. Which of the two rates then would it prefer? Now, in respect of cost of carriage, there would be a great difference in favor of the river if the navigation were open to Hingun Ghaut; though none at all for pressed cotton if the navigation were open to foot of the 3rd barrier only. The Rail might have a decisive advantage over the river in respect of time. The cotton is ready for export by March, whereas the navigation would not be open till June. On the whole, it seems probable that much of the cotton of the Wurda Valley will go by Rail to Bombay rather than by river to Cocanada.

Trade of Chutteesghur with Nagpore.

262. The trade of Chutteesghur with Nagpore has been ascertained to be worth per annum:—

Exports	... ...	Rupees	10,20,000 or £102,000
Imports	... ...	Rupees	5,20,000 or £52,000

vide paragraph 223 preceding. A portion of this traffic might, perhaps, follow the Godavery route. There is also a track from Chutteesghur to Sironcha frequented at certain seasons by the Bunjarra traders with their large droves of laden bullocks. It is now proposed to improve this track and conduct it to the foot of the 3rd barrier. Of the articles exportable from Chutteesghur by the Godavery, the principal would be cotton, oilseed, fibres, ghee (clarified butter), coarse cloth, and lac. In return for these would come from the Eastern Coast European goods, brass vessels, cocoanuts, and salt.

The Valley of the Godavery.

263. The Valley of the Godavery and the Pranheeta commences from the junction of the Wyn Gunga with the Wurda, the united streams being thenceforward called the Pranheeta, till the Godavery joins,

where the combined streams bear the joint name of Godavery. The left or northern bank of the river is under British rule; its Head Quarters being at Sironcha. The right or southern bank belongs to the Nizam of the Deccan.

District of Sironcha.

264. The British District of Sironcha is a long narrow strip on the river side, being bounded on one side by the river and on the other by Bustar Territory; its extreme length or river frontage may be stated at 224 miles; its breadth of course varies, but may be stated, on the average, to be about 16 miles. It has an area of 3,905 square miles (including Bhopalputnum). The cultivation is scanty, amounting to only 60,608 acres or 95 square miles. It is calculated that there are 241,600 acres of the first sort, and 428,864 of the second sort, culturable. The population is scanty, there being only 388 villages, with a population ascertained by census to be 35,000 souls. The people are chiefly Gonds, and also Teloogoo people, immigrants from the coast districts. Bhudrachellum is the only place that can be called a town. The revenue amounts to Rupees 29,000 or £2,900 per annum. The present products are wheat, millet, rice, oilseed, plantain and palmyra trees. The future hopes of agricultural wealth depend on the production of sugar, indigo, linseed and cotton, all of which can be produced on this soil. There is at present an utter deficiency of labor. The future supply must be by emigration from the west or Nizam's country, but chiefly from the south and east, that is from the coast districts. Already the base of communication for all operations on the Godavery is the Delta. It is from thence that all resources are drawn, and from thence that the majority of workmen and laborers are obtained. Of these many are drawn from the agricultural class, and might be induced to settle in lands near the works, and to send for their relations and families.

Its resources.

Its climate.

265. The climate is not so bad as may have sometimes been supposed. The fall of rain is copious every season. There is great heat for three months, but the rest of the year is comparatively cool. There is not much swamp to cause bad malaria. In the autumn and

in the early winter fever is very prevalent. Few strangers, whether European or Native, escape a mild type of fever; but exposure in the jungles from September to January will inevitably cause serious sickness. Also, if round any station, settlement, or habitation, jungle is permitted to grow thick, the dwellers will have bad fever. It seems essential that the benefits of the service should be secured to those who have to carry on important operations in an unhealthy country. I may add that near Sironcha a small Sanatarium on the Sirkonda Hill, 1,300 feet above the level of the Sea, has been experimentally established; and that an examination of the range of Hills on the British side of the river has shown them to be unfit for sanatory purposes.

Its forests.

266. There are forests on the British side within reach of the Godavery. The best of them, however, have been much exhausted. In 1860-61 some 25,000 teak logs were floated down. There is a good supply of second rate and third rate teak, which timber can be used for many purposes. Also the saj *(Pentaptera Tomentosa Terminalia,)* the bajee saul *(Pterocarpus Marsupium)*, the eromuddee *(Pentaptera Arjuna)*, the unjun *(Hardwickia Binata)*, the blackwood, and the ebony are to be met with in abundance, and most of these would be exported in great quantities by the river.

The right or Nizam's bank of the Godavery.

267. The right or Nizam's bank is much the finer of the two. It has some breadth of cultivation and four considerable towns. Its lower section possesses a large number of fine tanks for irrigation. The tract is divided into three administrative divisions, of which the area, population and revenue, so near as I could estimate them, may be stated as follows:—

Division.	Area.	Population.	Revenue.	
	Square Miles.	Souls.	Rupees.	£
Seerpore	900	15,000	46,000	4,600
Yelma	3,000	70,000	70,000	7,000
Husumabad, Shan Kurgirt	2,000	50,000	45,000	4,500
Total	5,900	135,000	1,61,000	16,100

Statistics of the Godavery Valley.

268. The general Statistics of the Godavery Valley, including both sides, may be thus abstracted:—

	Area.	Population.	Revenue.	
	Square Miles.	Souls.	Rupees.	£
Right or Nizam's bank ...	5,900	135,000	1,61,000	16,100
Left, or British bank ...	3,905	32,850	29,000	2,900
Total ...	9,805	167,850	1,90,000	19,000

269. For the topography of the valley reference can be made to my detailed Report. But in order to facilitate the comprehension of the valley, as a whole, it will be desirable to recapitulate its main features on each side simultaneously, as they appear to the visitor passing down the river from the Nagpore country to the Delta of the Godavery.

Topography and scenery of the Valley.

270. Starting, then, for the falls of the Wurda, near Hingun Ghaut, the voyage would see, on the right hand, the wild hilly country of the Nizam's dominions; and on the left, or British side, a broad level valley covered with cultivation. Further down the river, past the junction of the Wyn Gunga, as the 3rd or upper barrier is approached, the rich valley on the left becomes narrower, and narrower, more and more trenched upon by hill and forest, till it is restricted to a fringe of cultivation along the river's bank; while on the right hand the country somewhat improves, and though still hilly is more open. The junction of the Wyn Gunga is hidden from view by the hills. The barrier itself lies closed in by rocky hills and dense forests, a narrow strip being left on the right bank along which the tramroad or canal is to pass. Below the barrier, the river is called the Pranheeta. On the left or British side, the hills at first arrange themselves in picturesque groups, one of which has been compared by some to the group of seven mountains (Sieben Gebirge) on the Rhine; and after that continue, for many miles, almost to overhang the river, sometimes displaying the fine foliage and blossoms of the teak

tree, down to the water's edge. On the opposite or Nizam's bank, the most noticeable feature is the mouth of the Sibbree Stream, justly noted for its beauty. Further down, on the British side, the only point of note is Sironcha, with its old Fort overlooking the water; the country continuing to be hilly or jungly, with patches of cultivation. But on the opposite or foreign side, the junction of the Godavery Proper causes great tongues of land and broad basins to be formed, all which are partially cultivated, and are dotted over by such towns as Chinnoor, Muntanee, Mahadeopore, and the sacred Kaleshwur. Then the hills, of some variety and beauty, cluster thick round the second or middle barrier. The junction of the Indrawutty is concealed from view by the hills, which, rising one above the other, run almost parallel with the river, till the junction of the Tâl is reached. On the opposite or Nizam's side, again, the country is more cultivated and open, and marked by the towns of Nagaraw and Mungumpett. Below the latter place, again, the sacred Hill of Rootub Goota rises into view, immediately opposite to Doomagoodium on the British bank, where the Head Quarters of the Navigation Department are established. Proceeding downwards at the 1st or lower barrier, the country is comparatively level on both sides, and this barrier is far less formidable than the two preceding ones. Below the barrier, down to the junction of the Sibbree, the prominent object on the British side consists of the small Hills of Bhudrachellum, crowned with the cupolas, cones and spires of Hindoo temples. On the opposite or Nizam's side is that tank region, which, extending inland, some 250 miles, to beyond Wurrungul, the Capital of ancient Telingana, is marked by the remains of countless works of agricultural improvement, attesting a wisdom in the past, not known to the Native dynasties of the present.

271. Near the junction of the Sibbree, the Godavery River scenery begins to assume an imposing appearance. Hitherto, as it passed each barrier and gained the successive steps in its course, the river has been increasing in width, generally being about a mile broad, and sometimes even 2½ miles. Here also the whole range of the Eastern Ghaut Mountains comes fully into view, some 2,500 feet high, bounding the whole horizon and towering over all the lesser and detached hills that flank the river. Passing the

Hill scenery of the River.

Sibbee junction, the Godavery becomes more and more contracted, and pressed on either side by the spurs of the main range, till at length it forces a passage between them, penetrating, by an almost precipitous gorge, through the heart of the mountains that mark the frontier of the Central Provinces. It is at this gorge that the scenery of this river has been justly compared to that of the Rhine. Imprisoned for some 20 miles between the hills, the river flows in a narrow but very deep channel, with a current that sometimes lashes itself into boiling whirlpools. Then, escaping from its imprisonment, the mass of water spreads itself over a broad smooth surface, resembling a lake surrounded with hills and dotted with Islands, some of which are surmounted with Hindoo temples. Then, finally emerging from the hills, it forms itself into one mighty stream between flat cultivated banks, till, passing by the Madras Station of Rajahmundry, and approaching the great Dowlaishwaram Anicut, it breaks off into those numerous channels which permeate the Delta. At Dowlaishwaram there commences that net-work of canals which not only irrigate the lands, but also afford perfect navigation to the Sea port of Cocanada.

Present condition of the Valley

272. This, then, is the great valley, through the midst of which nature has spread out a great river, navigable at some seasons, except for certain obstacles, which seem actually to invite the skill and enterprise of man for their removal. It is owing to those obstructions that the river has not been navigated. It is owing to the river not being navigable that the valley, situate so far inland, cut off by distance and by ranges of hills from ordinary land routes, has had no natural outlet, no facilities for immigration and colonization, no stimulus to internal and external trade. It is owing to the want of such advantages that the valley has remained, for centuries, in a condition of degradation and desolation, so different from the condition of the valleys of the other great rivers in India. Whatever be the effect of the Godavery navigation upon other Districts, there cannot be a doubt that its effect upon these, the Valley Districts, will be great and satisfactory. It *will*, immensely, stimulate production in the Valley of the Godavery itself, and will carry the produce of *that* District to the sea coast. But such happy consequences may not be immediate; on the

contrary, they will be gradual, and even slow, for so vast a waste is not easily reclaimed, such interminable forests are not quickly cleared, nor do towns and villages spring up in a day; nor is the requisite human labor obtained, except through the gradual accumulation of the surplus population from other Districts, and through the multiplying of the indigenous population from one generation to another. Still, however, long of attainment, the result will ultimately be attained. And such a subject is, indeed, worthy of the comprehensive forethought of a great Government.

Works for improvement of the Navigation.

273. For the improvement of the Navigation, the main descriptions of Works now proposed are as follows:—

For the 1st barrier,—Anicut at head and Canal of twenty-five miles with Locks.

For the 2nd barrier,—Anicut with a short Canal of five miles with Locks. For this barrier a larger project has been considered, of an Anicut and Canal of, perhaps, forty miles.

For the 3rd barrier,—Anicut at head with Canal of 33 miles with Locks.

For the intermediate reaches of the river—

1*st*.—Clearing navigable passage of detached rocks generally.

2*nd*.—Cutting through ridge of sandstone rocks between 1st and 2nd barriers.

3*rd*.—Groins in shoaly pass of the river bed, to confine and regulate flow of streams.

4th.—Towing paths.—Complete Estimates for some of these are under preparation; for the remainder no formal Estimates have been commenced. Therefore, no reliable Statements of cost can be given. But it appears certain that the aggregate expenditure would be, at least, 75 lakhs of Rupees, or £750,000; and would, probably, exceed that sum.

Order in which the works are to be carried on.

274. The Supreme Government, after considering the subject in the light of such information as can be brought to bear upon it, have held that, by completing the line of Godavery navigation

past the 1st and 2nd barriers, and up to the foot of the 3rd barrier, the rich southern part of the Central Provinces will get the advantage of the river route for the export of its produce, and the import of its foreign supplies; that this part of the project will be complete in itself, and of certain utility, even if the navigation be open for only four or five months in the year; that the works, on the more moderate scale, will be perfectly suitable for the more extended project, should its execution be desired; and that the project regarding the 3rd barrier should be set aside for the present, until the smaller one is actually carried out to completion; or is in a much more matured state than at present. Under this view, these works on the 1st barrier, which have been commenced, are to be vigorously carried out; the complete Estimate for this part of the project is expected soon. The preparation of full Designs and Estimates for the work at the 2nd barrier is to be proceeded with as pressing and urgent. The tramways at the 1st and 2nd barriers are to be completed; care is to be taken that the minor works in the intermediate reaches of the river between the barriers shall be completed, at least, as soon as the Canals and Locks. All work at the 3rd barrier is to be stopped for the present. A good metalled road from Chanda to the foot of the 3rd barrier (70 miles) is to be undertaken at once. The completion of this work simultaneously with the opening of the 1st and 2nd barriers is essential. If the navigation works at the 3rd barrier shall be eventually undertaken, this road will still act as a feeder. The completion of the Telegraphic and Postal communication between Nagpore and Rajahmundry, along the course of the Godavery, is to be favorably considered. The works thus indicated might, with vigorous exertion, be completed within three years; and would open the river for navigation from the sea to the foot of 3rd barrier uninterruptedly, a distance of 300 miles. This mode of navigation would attract the produce and traffic of the Valley of Godavery itself of a portion of Eastern Nagpore. It would also obtain a share of the trade of the Valley of the Wurda.

The 1st and 2nd barriers.

Road from Chanda to the foot of the 3rd Barrier.

27o. That the opening of the 3rd barrier, and the extending of the navigation to Hingun Ghaut, would prove of immense benefit to the Nagpore

Project for the 3rd Barrier.

country is manifest. But this would involve a very heavy expense, not only at the 3rd barrier itself, but also in various works of indefinite extent for the improvement of the Wurda above the barrier. It is probable that a vast reservoir, or artificial lake, would be needed to store water for the supply of the Wurda. Special enquiries on this subject have been made during the past season; and a site for such a reservoir has been discovered. This project was described in the preceding paragraph 230 of this Report. Its execution, however, would involve a large outlay amounting to many lakhs of Rupees.

The Flotilla of River Steamers.

276. The Flotilla of Steamers, mentioned in Chapter VIII. of my last Administration Report, is essentially necessary for the prosecution of the works, as the vessels convey labor and materials, to which work they are primarily to be devoted. At the same time they may accept such freight as they can carry without prejudice to their regular duty.

Notice of Officers engaged in the works.

277. Before concluding this Report, I desire to acknowledge the obligations which the Central Provinces owe to the Government of Madras for its having, during the past seven years, consistently advocated, supported, and now actually commenced this navigation project, with a foresight and discrimination which will (we may hope) be one day rewarded by the attainment of, at least, many of the results anticipated. I would also beg to add my tribute of admiration to the professional ability, breadth of view, and boldness of conception with which Sir A. Cotton and Captain Haig framed this project and moulded it into practical shape. I would commend, to the favorable consideration of the Supreme Government, the exertions of Captain Haig and his Officers in executing the preliminaries of the various works. Foremost of the many difficulties with which they have successfully contended has been the insalubrity of a climate, from which all have suffered more or less, severely. Among the Officers I would mention the names of Lieutenants Montgomerie and Roberts; Major Stevens, the Traffic Agent; Mr. Mackenny, Mr. Dennison and Mr. MacGregor. I would refer to the difficult, indeed perilous, service performed by Messrs. Grossilier and Farley in conducting the Steamers over the barriers in the flood season of 1861.

278. It has been seen already that the second great outlet provided by nature for these Provinces is the River Mahanuddy. I am preparing a special and full report upon that river and its feeders, and upon the countries they water. In that Report, I may be able, in some slight degree, to do justice to the subject. At this place I can only epitomize the various matters connected with it. To illustrate the main points, as they will now be presented, a Sketch Map is appended.

The River Mahanuddy.

279. The Mahanuddy, then, rises in a mountainous region, (about 85 miles south of Raepore,) which bounds the Chutteesghur Plateau on the south, and divides it from the Bustar country. This country is, probably, the wildest of all the wild parts of these Provinces. The river then flows in a northerly direction, pass the towns of Dhunterry and Aring, and so arrives at a point named Sheonarain. Thus far it has been a comparatively insignificant stream, and is never navigated. But near here it is joined by three Affluents—the Sheonath, the Jonk and the Husdoo. The Jonk stream that rises in the same Hills as the Mahanuddy itself—it is never navigated. The Husdoo rising, from the north in the uplands of Sirgoojah, flows southwards to join the Mahanuddy and is navigated for about 30 miles before its junction. The Sheonath up to this point is a finer stream than the Mahanuddy, it rises in the Range which separates the Chutteesghur from the Nagpore country, and is navigated for about 50 or 60 miles above its junction.

The Jonk River.

The Husdoo River.

The Sheonath River.

280. From this point the Mahanuddy—considerably increased in volume, and quite navigable during the greater part of the year—takes an easterly course for 60 miles to a point near Puddumpore. During this space it is joined by two feeders, the Mand and the Kailoo, running downwards from the north, the former of which is navigated for a short distance. Here it changes its course in a southerly direction, and enters into a series of rocks cropping up all over its bed, splitting it into streamlets for several miles, and causing it to be, if not unnavigable, at least very difficult of navigation. Then it is joined by the Ebe, a stream of similar character from the North-east.

Course of the Mahanuddy.

The River Ebe.

in parts navigable. Then again struggling through masses of rocks, the Mahanuddy passes by Sumbulpore. Here its course is less obstructed, but is occasionally interrupted by mighty rocks, the terror of boatmen standing up mid-stream and realizing the exact notion of Scylla and Charybdis. Thus it passes by Binka and Sonepore, at which latter place it is joined by the Tél, a fine stream rising far south in the Hills of Kalahundy, and occasionally navigated during the rainy season. Below Sonepore, the Mahanuddy, taking an easterly course, pursues a tortuous way, cribbed, confined, and tossed about between ridges and ledges, and masses of rocks for many miles, till, passing Boad, it reaches a place called Dholepore. After this its troubles and vicissitudes among the rocks come to an end; and rolling its unrestrained waters along, it makes straight for the range of the Eastern Ghaut Mountains. Then it pierces the mountains by a gorge about 40 miles in length slightly inferior in grandeur, but equally in beauty, to the gorge of the Godavery. Here, over-looked by the Hills and shaded by forests on either side, it flows deep and is quite navigable at all seasons. Emerging from the Hills it expands its bed and spreads itself over sands till it reaches Cuttack where the Delta commences. The total distance by river from Nund Ghaut, where the Sheonath commences to be navigated, to Cuttack amounts to 350 miles.

The River Tel.

The Mahanuddy below Sonepore.

The Mahanuddy below the eastern Ghaut mountain.

281. The countries watered by this great river system are of various kinds, from the best to the worst. At their sources, both the Mahanuddy and the Sheonath run through wild and poor tracts. But as they approach their confluence, the country enclosed between them is well cultivated, being the very heart of the Raipore District. The Sheonath also flows, for many miles, within a short distance of the Lanjee Hills. Between these Hills and the River their lies a tract rich in cotton and cereals,—on the whole the finest part of the Chutteesghur Plateau, and in natural advantages, one of the most promising tracts in the Central Provinces. The Husdoo also, for the last 50 miles of its course, flows through a cultivated country, and the broad plains of Ruttunpore (Belaspore District), enclosed be-

The countries watered by the Mahanuddy and its feeders.

The Chutteesghur country.

tween it and the Sheonath are well cultivated and thickly inhabited. The Jonk River runs through an insalubrious country covered with forest, as yet but little invaded by man. But up to this point, that is to Sheonaroin, the country watered by the Mahanuddy, Sheonath and Husdeo, is a noble one, a really vast champaign already cultivated and inhabited, furnishing a great amount of surplus produce for exportation; and capable of infinite productive improvement. This is the tract described in paragraph 278 of my last Report. The products are cot on,

Its products and resources.

sugar, wheat, rice, linseed and other oilseeds, gram and hemp. So superabundant is agricultural produce beyond the demand of consumption on the spot, that prices of grain are often three times as cheap in Chutteesghur as elsewhere, and sometimes the proportion as even been greater. For some years past there has been a considerable exportation of grain to Nagpore, and recently to Berar, and even to Hyderabad in the Deccan. In the jungles which surround Chutteesghur, lacdye and resin are produced and exported in quantities to Mirzapore. At Koorba on the Husdeo, 33 miles above its junction with the Mahanuddy, there are coal fields of fair quality and considerable extent, and also some iron ore. In the Hills near the Jonk there are the remains of teak forests, much exhausted at present, but now conserved with a view to reproduction; and saul forests of practically boundless extent.

282. Below Sheonarain down to Puddumpore, the left bank of the river is well cultivated to a breadth of several miles; and the Valley of the Mand is cultivated to a considerable extent. But the right bank is, for the most part, jungly and insalubrious. Past Puddumpore, the river runs beneath the wild and inhospitable range of Hill called the Bara Pahta; and the country on both banks is unpromising. Below this there is the Valley of the Ebe, which is, in parts, well cultivated, and presents a field for increased culture. Near Sumbulpore, again, the country is cultivated on both banks. The left bank presents really beautiful rice fields and on the right bank there stretches out the broad cultivated plateau called Dukkun Teer, which joins again the fairly inhabited country of Sonepore. Opposite Sonepore, and a lit-

The Valley of the Mahanuddy.

The Sumbulpore Country.

the above it, the left bank becomes somewhat hedged in by Hills, but again it opens out into a cultivated plain, which, situate between ranges of Hills and the River, continues south-eastwards many miles until the Eastern Ghauts come into sight.

283. The agricultural produce of these Territories is much the same as that of Chutteesghur. In the Reheacole and Bamra country, on the left bank, there are iron and timber and in the Khurrear country there are teak forests.

Country of the Gurjat States.

284. Now if the two governing points, Sheonarain and Sonepore, be borne in mind, it will be seen that the Mahanuddy, flowing first northwards, then turning eastwards and again southwards, encircles in a vast loop a considerable tract of country. The country thus environed with a river system on all sides is neither rich nor promising. It has, indeed, the Dukkun Teer Plateau and the Sonepore country, and in its centre there are the plains of Thooljur fertile in soil, but scantily cultivated; and this much is good. The rest, though not uninhabited, is yet wild, mountainous and woody, occupied by Gurjat Chiefs who rule over a scanty people in the lowest stage of Indian civilization. Still even here there are occasionally (as for instance near Patna) traces of former habitation and even of a past greatness—which, attesting what the country has been, proves what it may yet become.

Lower Valley of the Mahanuddy.

285. Below Sonepore on the right bank of the river there is the Tél Valley, which near the junction is only partially cultivated; but which is connected further south with the Kalahundy country, where cultivation already exists, where quantities of surplus produce could certainly be raised, and whence already some boat-loads of produce already come annually. On the left bank of the Mahanuddy there succeeds the Boad country, which is indifferent both in present condition and in future prospects. The Eastern Ghaut Mountains, of course, present nothing but forests, and even these not in great abundance. Below them the rich Delta of Cuttack (under the Bengal Government) needs no description from me.

286. It is manifest then that, of the countries watered by the Mahanuddy and its feeders, the best, by far, is

Resources of the Districts adjacent to the Mahanuddy.

that which lies above the confluence of the Sheonath and the Husdoo; and that the remainder is wild and hilly, interspersed with cultivated tracts along the banks of the several rivers, which tracts sometimes expand into valleys; and in one point only, that is near Sumbulpore, open out into a really broad plateau. Of these several countries the hilly parts have been topographically surveyed. The champaign country, at least that which is under British Administration, is being surveyed field by field, so as to show all particulars relating to cultivation. But a space of one or two years will elapse before these data are complete. For the country under the rule of Rajahs and Chiefs such particulars will never be procurable. It is clear, however, that the cultivated area of Chutteesghur must amount to many hundreds of square miles, probably to 2,500; and its population is estimated at two millions of souls. The resources of the Sumbulpore District and its Dependencies must be less than half the amount represented by the above estimate. The total area connected with the Mahanuddy and its tributaries is vast, and cannot be less than 20,000 square miles. The productive resources, though small, of course, as compared with such an area, and though scattered over long distances, do yet amount to a very considerable aggregate; and present a vast, and perhaps a profitable, field for enterprise. These great cultivated plateau; these several rich valleys; these surplus stores of cotton, sugar, grain, oilseeds and fibre; these coal fields and iron mines and forests; these jungles, abounding in articles fit for the use of man, are all locked-up far inland, imprisoned among the mountains. From them there would be sent forth exports of considerable variety, and in large quantities to the sea ports of the Coast, if only cheap and easy communication were provided. The amount of exports, even now, despatched by toilsome wearing and tearing routes, is but an earnest of what the future traffic would become if reasonable facilities were offered. This population, which though scattered and reduced by unhappy circumstances below its former numbers, is still considerable; which is now ignorant in its isolation, and content with the barest subsistence, would rapidly learn all those new wants and tastes which are always produced by intercourse with the outer world.

287. The existing traffic connected with these various Districts follows several routes; the river routes have

The present Land Routes for traffic.

been already mentioned. The principal land route is that from Chutteesghur to Nagpore, by which the cotton and the surplus grain from the Valley of the Sheonath is carried in carts. The road is that which is now called the Eastern Line; it passes, after leaving the Chutteesghur limits, through a jungly country, in a westerly direction, till it reaches the Wyn Gunga; during the winter months it is literally blocked up and choked up with endless strings of carts. From Chutteesghur this line proceeds eastwards till it meets the Mahanuddy at Sumbulpore, having a branch to Binka, also on the river. At present this Great Eastern Line is the only line traversed by *carts*: for the other lines, now to be mentioned, the carriage *consists of pack bullocks only*. The next line to be mentioned is that by the Pass which leads from the north-western corner of the Chutteesghur Plateau, across the mountains, by Mundla, to Jubbulpore. From the upper extremity of Chutteesghur, known as the Ruttunpore country, there run northwards two hilly routes; one winding round the Umurkuntuk Mountains, falls into the Valley of the Soane near Sohagpore, and then proceeds onwards to join the Grand Trunk Road near Rewah *en route* to Mirzapore; the other crosses mountains which overlook Chutteesghur, and passing over the undulating and upland country of Sirgoojah, crosses the Soane near Mirzapore, and thus meets that great mart. Another route follows the banks of the Mahanuddy from Sheonarain downwards, passing by the Towns of Chunderpore, Puddumpore, Sumbulpore, Binka, Sonepore, Boad, Kuntaloo to Cuttack. This road has been, more or less, made throughout, and in the section below Boad it has been greatly improved under orders of the Bengal Government. Again, there is a route from Raepore across the country of Khurreear, Patna, and Kalahundy to Ganjam on the Coast; it is by this route that the supplies of salt for all Chutteesghur are brought. This is one of the wildest and unhealthiest routes in all India, though it is, at present, very important. Lastly, there is the oute from Dhumterry, south of Raepore, which crosses the great wilderness, a desperately bad country, to join the Godavery near Sironcha.

The Great Eastern Line.

288. The amount of the existing traffic, by all these several routes, by land and water, may be approximately stated as below, from

enquiries made on the spot, and from the statistics collected by persons specially appointed for that purpose :—

ROUTES.	BY LAND.				BY WATER.			
	EXPORT.		IMPORTS.		EXPORT.		IMPORTS.	
	Bulk.	Value	Bulk.	Value.	Bulk.	Value.	Bulk.	Value.
	Mds.	Rs.	Mds.	Rs.	Mds.	Rs.	Mds.	Rs.
Chutteesghur to Nagpore ...	80,000	10,20,000	15,000	20,000				
Ditto to Sumbulpore and Binka ...	1,20,000	3,25,000	45,000	80,000				
Ditto by Mundla to Jubbulpore ...	135,000	3,57,579						
Ditto by Ruttunpore to Mirzapore ...	80,000	1,85,000	1,700	85,000				
Sheonarain by Sumbulpore, Boad and Kuntaloo to Cuttack ...	11,400	23,000	4,200	10,600	42,400	71,700	36,760	88,000
Raepore by Kalahundy to Ganjam ...	...	...	150,000	3,10,000				
Dhamterry to Godavery near Sirnoora ...	(not known).							

* 82 lbs. each.

289. I will now advert briefly to the character of the navigation on the Mahanuddy, and the best means of improving it.

Water route from Chutteesghur in the monsoon season.

290. There is already a traffic from Chutteesghur by the Mahanuddy during the rainy season. About 200 boats are thus employed. They are laden at Nund Ghaut on the Sheonath, and thence pass down to Cuttack and back again within the season. The value of the goods they take and bring is estimated at a lakh of Rupees (£10,000) annually. During the dry season also a few small boats venture down, and are dragged laboriously over the shoals. This precarious item of trade does not exceed Rupees 10,000 or £1,000 in value. Last year the boats thus employed were 28 in number.

Boats on the Mahanuddy.

291. Lower down the river the depôts for boats are at *Sumbulpore, Binka, Sonepore,* and Kuntaloo, the last named place being on the Cuttack side of the Eastern Ghauts. For the two former places the numbers of boats are as follows :—

At Sumbulpore ... ... 500 boats.
At Binka ... ... 305 „

The boats are all of a long narrow canoe-like shape, expressly constructed for dangerous and intricate navigation. They are of several sizes. In the rainy or monsoon season, they ply up and down the river at all times; in the dry season they can reach as high as Binka, but no higher, except in insignificant numbers, inasmuch as above that point the rocks, emerging from the diminished waters, almost become barriers.

Navigation of the Mahanuddy

Thus it may be said that the Mahanuddy is navigable from Cuttack to Chutteesghur in the rains, and from Cuttack to Binka in the dry season.

292. The monsoon navigation, though not absolutely barred by barriers, is in many places critically dangerous. The lesser rocks become submerged, and boats can float well over them. But the larger rocks keeps their jagged fronts and sharp peaks close up to the surface in all directions; and thus cause the navigable channel to be narrow and tortuous. Thus boats are in danger of losing their way in the waters, and of being destroyed among the reefs. Then the largest rocks rear their horrid heads right above the waters, sometimes guarding and confining the navigable way; but sometimes protruding up in the midst of the channel itself. Thus a boat having swiftly glided with the full force of the current, through a passage between rocks on either side, is suddenly confronted by another rock against which the current is madly rushing. Then it is that the severest danger arises. Unless the boat can be so steered as to avoid the rocks, it must be dashed to pieces. Hardly a season passes in which some boats do not perish in this manner; though in some years the casualties are less than in others. Thus it is that the monsoon navigation, from Puddumpore to Dholepore, is more or less fraught with risk. It is only a limited number of Boatmen who, having spent their lives on the river, can undertake to conduct boats with safety. The Sonepore people are well known for their skill and courage as Steersman.

Its dangers.

293. Something has been done to lessen these dangers and obstructions by blasting the rocks in various places. The effect of such operations is always uncertain; the removal of one rock, changing the current, causes other rocks to become dangerous. And if the work were undertaken to any large extent, it would never end until the whole

Temporary Improvement of the Navigable Channel.

of the rock formations were reduced; and indefinitely vast expense were incurred. A little rock blasting might, however, be beneficially done each year, at a cost of from Rupees 5,000 to 10,000 (£1,000). It is also the opinion of all persons, European and Native, practically acquainted with the river, that safety and convenience would be enhanced if the monsoon channel were marked by basketed poles firmly attached to the peaks of the rocks. This plan could be carried out at a small expense. The Local Authorities are confident that by blasting the rocks in some places and marking the channel in others, the navigation and traffic on the Mahanuddy could be increased. And if permanent Navigation Works on the river be not undertaken, I should certainly recommend a small annual expenditure on the above limited objects.

Proposed Canal in the Valley of the Mahanuddy.

294. But there is *no* doubt that the *only* way of making the Mahanuddy really navigable is to *construct a canal* from some point above Puddumpore to some point below Dholepore. The country has not been scientifically examined, nor has the project been matured; but both banks of the river have, of late, been visited by various Officers, some possessed of engineering skill, and others having much local knowledge. None have doubted the practicability of such a canal. There will be difficulties here and there, but probably no obstacles of more than ordinary magnitude. Opinions differ as yet, as to whether the best line would be found on the right bank or the left. On the left bank the main difficulty would be the crossing of the Ebe, which might be overcome by an aqueduct. On the right bank there would be high ground to cut through near the head; and after that either the Tél River would have to be crossed by an aqueduct, or else the canal would have to be conducted by means of an anicut across the Mahanuddy itself somewhere near Binka. In either case, the canal distance would be about 150 miles, and at a rate of from Rupees 20,000 to 30,000 (£2,000 to 3,000) per mile, the cost would range from 30 to 40 lakhs of Rupees (or £300,000 to 400,000). Such a canal would pass through the country for the most part cultivated or culturable; and at many points would traverse well inhabited tracts. It would, therefore, supply water for irrigation as much as could be spared. Its main purpose would, perhaps, be navigation. If it answered (as it doubtless would)

Its probable cost.

the purposes both of irrigation and navigation, its income would be considerable. It would attract the entire traffic of the Districts bordering on the Mahanuddy below Sheonarain, and at least a portion of the Chutteesghur traffic beyond that point. The passenger traffic would also be considerable by the canal, which follows one of the main routes of Pilgrims to Juggernâth.

Its probable value.

295. Below Dholepore the canal would be re-united with the river, and ultimately connected with the works of the Irrigation Company in the Cuttack Delta. Were there no such works in the Delta, it would not be advisable to construct a canal along the Upper Mahanuddy; for it is certain that navigation works in the upper part of the river would not secure the interests of trade, unless the Delta were also rendered passable for boats at all seasons. But as the Delta is to have its canals, then the suggestion of a canal in the Upper Mahanuddy immediately presents itself as being needed to ensure a full and perfect result to the Delta works; and to connect the rich country near the source of the Mahanuddy with the rich country near its mouth.

CHAPTER X.

FINANCIAL.

296. In Chapter IX. of my last Report, the various considerations bearing on the Finances of the Central Provinces were set forth. A Form of Statement of Receipts and Disbursements has now been prescribed by the Financial Department of the Supreme Government, and the remarks in the present Chapter will follow the order of that

Abstract of Receipts and Disbursements.

Statement. The Abstract itself, with all the items filled in by the Deputy Auditor and Accountant General, is given in an Appendix.

The actual Receipts.

297. The total receipts during the year 1862–63 are set down in this Statement at Rupees 84,42,274 or £844,227. There are items received during this year on account of the former year. But on the other hand, there are items on account of this year which will be actually received during the succeeding year. So that the two sets of items will balance each other. Thus, the above sum of 84½ lakhs of Rupees, or in round numbers £850,000, fairly represents the present Annual Income of these Provinces. This agrees generally with paragraph 346 of my last Report, wherein the Income was stated at 84¼ lakhs of Rupees or £825,000. The services from which this Income is derived are explained in the previous Chapter IV., or Revenue. The only item requiring explanation here is the Income under head of Law and Justice, amounting to Rupees 96,142, or £9,614. This arises chiefly from fines.

Income of Local Funds.

298. Under the head of Public Debt, the only item requiring notice here is that of Local Funds, amounting to Rupees 5,71,596, or £57,159. This Income arises from the Road and Ferry Funds; the Nuzool Fund being proceeds of lands and buildings, property of the State; and the Town Duties levied for purposes of Municipal Police and local improvement.

Total of Disbursements.

299. The disbursements shown in the Statement amount to Rupees 54,22,290, or 54¼ lakhs, or £542,229.

300. Of this aggregate amount, Rupees 9,04,420, or nine lakhs, or £90,442, represent expenditure on Civil buildings and works of internal improvement and public convenience, including roads and communication. These are explained in the preceding Chapter VI., Sections 2 and 3.

301. In the same aggregate, under the headings of Allowance and Assignments under Treaties and Engagements, Allowances to District and Village Officers, Miscellaneous, Superannuation, and Retired

Allowances and Gratuities for charitable and other purposes, the following are the items:—

Rupees	8,78,752	or	£87,875
„	1,85,739	or	£18,573
The total of these will amount to Rupees	10,64,491*	or	£106,448

Cost of the regular Civil Administration.

302. These several sums being deducted from the aggregate of 54¼ lakhs, leave a sum of 34½ lakhs, or Rupees 34,53,379, or £345,337, as the regular charge of the Civil administration for 1862-63. This agrees nearly with paragraph 352 of my last Report, in which the Civil expenditure was set down at 32½ lakhs of Rupees, or £325,000. There is thus a difference of 1½ lakhs, which is to be accounted for by the addition of an Inspector of Jails and his Establishment, which has been sanctioned within the year; by an increase in the number of Prisoners; by the expenses of the Forest Department, which used not formerly to be exhibited under charges, but was deducted from Income; and by increased expenditure on Education, and on the settlement of the Land Revenue,—which last item represents but a temporary expenditure. The Civil expenditure may thus be estimated as amounting to about 40 per cent. on the revenues.

Scales of the Civil Establishments.

303. In my last Report, paragraphs 347 and 348, I explained that all Civil Establishments had been strictly scrutinized and reduced to an uniform scale, at an aggregate saving of nearly three lakhs of Rupees, or £30,000 per annum; which was mainly owing to the amal-

* This amount includes the total Political Expenditure of these Provinces. In my last Report, paragraph 353, the Political Expenditure was stated to be about ten lakhs. But it was pointed out, by the Supreme Government, that the purely Political Expenditure appeared to amount to only Rupees 8,50,000 or 8½ lakhs. I have, however, to explain that the ten lakhs included items for District and Village Officers, which in these Provinces are virtually Political, and the greater part of the Superannuation and Retired Allowances which are on account of services rendered to the Native Government which preceded us, and may, therefore, be regarded as Political also. So far, then, the Statement of ten lakhs was substantially correct. The total, as now shown, of Rupees 10,64,491, which is 64,491 in excess of ten lakhs, includes some pensions not Political in the above sense, and some Miscellaneous charges.

gamation of all the various territories comprising the Central Provinces under one Administration. There has been no increase during the year in these regular Establishments; save the appointment of the Inspector of Jails and his Establishment, at an annual cost of Rupees 14,760, or £1,475, a measure which will more than repay itself by the introduction of economies. The disbursements under the head of Police amount to Rupees 10,44,832, or £104,448, on account of 1862-63, which is well within the sanctioned allotment of 11¼ lakhs of Rupees or £112,500. But then the arrear disbursements on account of former years (Rupees 1,17,291, or £11,729) bring up the total of Rupees 11,61,773 or 11½ lakhs, or £116,177. These disbursements were of a special character, arising out of the discharging of troops and levies and re-organization of the Police. The preceding Chapter III. on Police will have shewn that the Department is working *below* its Budget, and that even further reductions are being effected. The disbursements shewn above do *not* include Rupees 1,09,996, on account of Municipal Police, which is included in the item (Cs. Rs. 9,61,769, or £96,176) of Local Funds, under the head of Public Debt, inasmuch as this section of the Police is paid for from those Funds.

Cost of new Police.

304. The only heads under which increase of expenditure is at present to be anticipated are those of Education and Land Revenue Settlement. In the preceding Chapter V. the special necessity of diffusing Education among a more than ordinarily unenlightened population was explained. And in the preceding Chapter IV. on Revenue, it was shewn how the settlement of the Land Revenue will improve the Land Tax, and subserve the best interests of the State and of the people. The only head under which decrease is to be expected is the Political, which constitutes a heavy charge, there will be a gradual diminution by reason of lapses.

305. During the year 1862-63, the Office of Deputy Auditor and Accountant General has been established at Nagpore, with great advantage to the general administration. It is generally considered that a Civil Pay Master is needed for these Provinces. At present the pre-audit is conducted by the Civil Pay Master at Allahabad, and this ar-

Office of Deputy Auditor General.

rangement is found to involve constant delays and frequent inconvenience to the servants of Government of all classes.

The Bank of Bengal Agency.

306. Recently a Branch Agency of the Bank of Bengal has been established at Nagpore, and entrusted with all the Treasury business at the Head Quarters Station of these Provinces. The circulation of the Government Currency Notes has commenced. This Agency will prove of advantage to the public service and convenience to the trading interests.

Measures regarding the Coinage.

307. Measures have been proposed for the gradual withdrawal of the Mahratta silver coinage, commonly called the Nagpore Rupees, and for the increased circulation of the Government copper coinage.

Cost of Regular troops in these Provinces.

308. The total cost of the troops now serving in these Provinces was set down, in paragraph 353 of my last Report, at 38 lakhs of Rupees, or £383,000. Since then one Regiment of Native Cavalry and one Regiment of Madras Native Infantry have been added, increasing the Estimate by five lakhs and raising the total to forty-three lakhs of Rupees, or £430,000 per annum. How far this expenditure ought to be considered as debitable to the Finance of the Central Provinces is a matter for the consideration of the Supreme Government. As regards the interests of these Provinces, the case was stated in paragraph 355 of my last Report. Without doubt, a considerable portion of the troops serving within these Provinces *are* required for local defence and protection; and the cost *is* so far debitable to our Finance. A portion of the troops again can hardly be said to be so required, and appears to pertain, more properly, to the General Reserve of the Empire.

Expenditure on Public Works.

309. The Department of Public Works expenditure, exclusive of the items mentioned in the preceding paragraph 300, as pertaining to Civil Buildings and Works of internal improvement and public convenience, aggregated fifteen lakhs of Rupees, or £153,864 in 1862-63 exclusive of of the Godavery Navigation Works. But for 1863-64 a sum of nine lakhs of Rupees or £90,000 will have to be added on account of the Navigation Works.

310. Thus the total Imperial expenditure within the Central Provinces for the current year, exclusive of Public Debt, may be stated in round numbers as follows :—

Total of Imperial expenditure in these Provinces.

As per Deputy Auditor and Accountant General's Statement	lakhs...	45* or £450,000
Add on account of the Army	„	*43 or £430,000
„ on account Department Public Works ...	„	26 or £260,000
Total one crore fourteen lakhs...		1,14 or £1,140,000

CHAPTER XI.

ECCLESIASTICAL.

311. During the year under review, it has been decided that the Nagpore Province is under the direct Ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the Bishop of Calcutta; and the whole of the Central Provinces are now comprised in one Diocese. The Lord Bishop of Calcutta extended his visitation Tour over the greater part of these Provinces during the cold season of 1862-63. His Lordship visited the Stations of Jubbulpore, Saugor, Seonee, Nagpore, Baitool, and Hoshungabad; consecrated the Church and Cemetry at Jubbulpore; the new Cemetry at Seonee; the new Church and Cemetries at Seetabuldee (Nagpore); and inaugurated the new School at Seetabuldee for European and Eurasian children. Confirmations were held at the principal Stations.

Visitation Tour of the Bishop of Calcutta.

312. There is, unfortunately, no doubt that Chaplains and Churches are very few as compared with the re-

* Exclusive of charges under Headings E. and F. I., which are included in the 26 lakhs for Public Works.

Paucity of Chaplains.

quirements of these Provinces. There are but four Chaplains and four Churches to ten Military, and twelve* Civil, Stations; in all twenty-two† Stations. And the disproportion is aggravated by the great distances between the various Stations, the consequence being that some outlying Districts are visited by Chaplains but seldom, and some Districts never.

* Including Doomageodium.

† This includes Nowgong and Nagpore; if Rewah be included (as it is visited by the Jubbulpore Chaplain), there would be 23.

313. Within the year under review, the Church at Seetabuldee (Nagpore) has been completed in good architectural style: a Church has been commenced at Hoshungabad; Churches with appropriate Designs have been ordered at Chindwarra and Raepore. The erection or purchase of Parsonage houses at Hoshungabad and at Raepore has been sanctioned; and application has been made to the Additional Clergy Society for two Chaplains, one for Hoshungabad and one for Raepore. The want of separate Chaplains for the Civil Station of Seetabuldee (Nagpore) continues to be much felt.

Three new Churches ordered.

CHAPTER XII.

POLITICAL.

314. The past and present circumstances of the Bhonsla family were described in my last Report (paragraphs 364 to 371.) The Political Agency for the management of this family has, within the year under review, been abolished; and the supervision over the Palace affairs, which was at first necessary, has gradually ceased. The exemption of the members of the family from the ordinary jurisdiction of the Civil Tribunals has been done away with. The Rajah of Deor and the Bhonsla family are now simply in the position of Native gentlemen of rank. They are Honorary Magistrates; they sit on Local Committees;

The Bhonsla Family.

they found Schools; and altogether set a good example to Native society at Nagpore.

315. The Bustar State was described in paragraphs 379 to 384 of my last Report. Dulgujim Sing, the Minister of this State, and its real Controller, died in January last. The grave dispute, that had long existed between the Rajah of Bustar and the Rajah of Jyepore, (the latter being under the Madras Government,) regarding the Kotepard Estate, has been settled within the year. It has been decided that Kotepard is to remain in the possession of Jyepore, but that Bustar is to receive an annual tribute. It is hoped that the two States will no longer have parties of rival combatants almost confronting each other. The Madras Government has established an effective Police within the Jyepore State. It has been agreed with the Bustar State that the British Authorities shall maintain in and about the capital town, Jugulpore, a party of Police, 40 Foot and 12 Horse.

Disputes between the States of Bustar and Jyepore.

316. In October last a complete Report by Captain Glasfurd (Deputy Commissioner of the Upper Godavery District), regarding the physical geography, the past history, the character of the population, the resources and trade of Bustar, was submitted to the Supreme Government.

317. The Kalahundy State was described in paragraphs 385 to 388 of my last Report. During the past season, the excitable and superstitious Khonds within that State threatened to stop the Topographical Survey. This affair, which might easily have grown to large dimensions, was stopped by the prompt conduct of Captain Loch, Assistant Commisssoner.

The Kalahundy State.

318. The long pending dispute between the Pât and Thât Rajahs regarding the much vexed tract of Thooamool has been decided within the year. The Thât Rajah is to have possession of the tract, and the Pât Rajah is to receive seignorial dues.

The Thât and Pât Rajahs.

319. At Sumbulpore, the ex-Rebel Leader and late Pretender to

Sumbulpore affairs.

the throne has remained quietly drawing his pension. Recently Kuwal Sing, a former rebel, has been harassing the North-East frontier of that District with robberies and occasionally with murders. Some of his band had established themselves on the Bara Pahar, a well known robber fastness; but have been just expelled. Unless this man shall be killed or taken, further trouble may be expected in that quarter. It has been decided that Sumbulpore shall be permanently garrisoned by two Companies of Madras Native Infantry.

The Gurjat States.

320. The thirteen Gurjat States, dependencies of Sumbulpore, were mentioned in paragraphs 376 and 377 of my last Report. Within the past year these Chiefs have been invested with Magisterial powers under the Code of Criminal Procedure. The orders were duly explained to them by myself in Durbar at Sumbulpore. They are wild and ignorant, though proud of their lineage. They have, on the whole, behaved well; except the Rajahs of Bendra, Nowaghur and Kurrier, who have evinced a contumacious spirit. The principal of all these States is that of Patna. A complete Report by Major Impey, the Deputy Commissioner, on the history and condition of Patna, which may be considered as partly illustrative of all the Gurjat States, has been submitted to the Supreme Government.

The Mukrye State.

321. The condition of Mukrye, a wild State of considerable antiquity on the extreme frontier of Hoshungabad, has been examined, and it has been recommended that the Chief be placed on the same footing as the Gurjat Chiefs.

CHAPTER XIII.

MILITARY.

322. The constitution and the strength, past and present, of the

Recent addition to the Nagpore Force.

Military Forces in the Central Provinces were described in Chapter XII. of my last Report. Since that time no material change has been made, except that one Regiment of Madras Native Infantry and a full Regiment (instead of a squadron as first proposed) of Native Cavalry have been permanently added to the Nagpore Division. It has been decided that the Station of Raepore, formerly held by a Regiment of Irregular Infantry, shall in future have a Detachment of Madras Native Infantry from Hoshungabad. It has also been decided that Sumbulpore shall, in future, be garrisoned by two Companies of Madras Native Infantry from Cuttack. It was shown in the last Report that the Detachments at Dumoh, Nursingpore, and Baitool had been withdrawn. There are now seven Military Stations in these Provinces (exclusive of the Sanatarium of Mohtoor), among which the Troops are to be distributed as below. It must be borne in mind that the Stations of Chanda and Raepore have been occupied by regular Troops, for the first time, within the year under review.

Distribution of Regular Troops in the Central Provinces.

323. The strength of the several Arms may be thus given :—

Military Stations.	Cavalry Regiments.		Artillery Batteries.	Infantry Regiments.		REMARKS.
	European.	Native.	European.	European.	Native.	
Saugor ...	0	1	2	1	1	With Detachment at Nowgong.
Jubbulpore ...	0	0	1	1	1	With Detachment at Nagode.
Hoshungabad ...	0	0	0	0	1	With Detachment at Chanda.
Kamptee and Nagpore ...	0	1	2	1	2	
Chanda ...	0	0	0	0	0	Detachment from Hoshungabad.
Raepore ...	0	0	0	0	1	
Sumbulpore ...	0	0	0	0	0	Ditto from Cuttack.

The total amounts to about 8,079 men of all ranks. The Troops at Jubbulpore may be regarded as an Imperial Reserve. The Troops at all the other Stations are required, more or less, for the defence of the Central Provinces. It is believed that, with the distribution of Troops as above described, the Military protection of these Provinces is complete and satisfactory.

The Nagpore Arsenal.

324. The removal of the Arsenal from Seetabuldee, near Nagpore, to Kamptee, which had been previously recommended, has been again urged during the year. The measure is without doubt, one of just Military precaution.

The Nagpore Volunteers.

325. The formation of the Nagpore Volunteers was mentioned in paragraph 409 of my last Report. Their numbers and efficiency have been maintained during the year. They have conformed to all the provisions of Act XXIII. of 1857, and have fixed a certain number of days per week for drill, the attendance at which will be compulsory under legal penalties. They have been inspected by the Brigadier Commanding the Nagpore Force, under the General Orders issued from the Military Department of the Supreme Government. Their Commandant, Captain Bolton (Assistant Commissioner), deserves great credit for his exertions. There has been formed a Rifle Association for these Provinces, and two Meetings have been already held.

326. It has been already shown, both in the last Report and in the present, that there are now no Troops in these Provinces save those of the regular Army.

CHAPTER XIV.

MISCELLANEOUS.

SECTION I.

AGRICULTURE AND COTTON.

Agri-Horticultural Society of the Central Provinces.

327. The formation of an Agri-Horticultural Society for the Central Provinces was mentioned in paragraph 411 of my last Report. During the past year the Society has taken root, and begun to produce results. It now number 71 members, of whom 43 are European gentlemen, and 14 Native Gentlemen. Its annual Income amounts to Rupees 3,408 or £340. Its Joint Secretaries, Captain Cobbe and Mr. Ross, have devoted considerable knowledge and experience to the affairs

of the Society, and have thereby rendered service to the country at large. Its Head Quarters are in the Maharaj Garden at Nagpore, which extensive grounds are under its charge. This great garden, when complete, will cover 28 acres, and will be a nursery and depôt for trees, shrubs, plants, and flowers from all climates and countries. Among the Subscribers are the Secretaries to the Local Committees of Districts; and at the Civil Station of each District a Public Garden has been formed, for which seeds, plants and the like are obtainable from the Society at Nagpore. Seventeen gardens of this description have been established in various parts of these Provinces, and all have received seeds from Nagpore. The Society at Nagpore has obtained, or ordered quantities of, seeds from Saharunpore, Bombay and London. A trained European Gardener is on his way to Nagpore from Edinburgh; a house having been built for him in the Maharaj Garden.

Public Gardens.

328. Through the agency of the Society enquiries have been made as to the best means of encouraging the growth of potatoes. There seems every hope that, if skill and intelligence be brought to bear on the subject, the potatoe in these Provinces may be indefinitely improved and extended. It is already cultivated in the Mundla Hills, and in the Chindwarra and Nursingpore Districts, and also in the northern part of Chutteesghur. It is consumed in some quantities by the people themselves. A potatoe garden has been successfully established on the Puchmurree Hill; a similar experiment will be made on the Mohtoor Hill.

The growth of various products encouraged.

329. It is intended to make experiments in the culture of tea, coffee, and cinchona on the Sautpoora Hills. Enquiries have been made regarding the culture of arrowroot at the principal Stations; and some quantities of tubers have been distributed.

330. The acclimatized Otaheite sugar-cane has been found by long experience to answer extremely well in the Jubbulpore District. It has been, therefore, determined to introduce this variety into the other sugar-growing Districts. During the past season many cart-loads of sugar-seed and plant have been distributed among

the Landholders of the Nagpore District. The result has yet to be seen.

331 At Saugor a separate Society has been formed in connexion with the great Public Garden, which is being constructed there, near the Northern extremity of the Lake.

COTTON.

332. In my last Report, paragraphs 412 to 437, an account was given of the several Cotton Fields and Cotton Marts in the Central Provinces; and of the production and exportation of this important article.

Estimated Cotton Crop of the Central Provinces.

333 In the autumn of 1862, an Estimate was required from every District Officer of the Cotton crop then springing up, and of the proportion expected to be exported. This Estimate was published in the *Calcutta Gazette*. The Abstract may be recapitulated here, the figures being grouped under the three geographical heads into which the Cotton Fields in these Provinces are naturally divided, *viz.*, the Nagpore Country, the Nerbudda Country, and the Chutteesghur Country :—

ESTIMATED AMOUNT OF COTTON CROP.

The Nerbudda Country.

	lbs.	Total lbs.
Saugor ...	1,238,856	
Dumoh ...	832,300	
Hoshungabad	1,274,936	
Jubbulpore	2,107,892	
Mundla ...	22,140	
Nursingpore	3,228,750	
		8,704,874

The Nagpore Country.

Chindwarra	598,600	
Baitool ...	5,330	
Seonee ...	328,000	
Nagpore } Wurdah }	31,954,908	
Bhundara...	0	
Chanda ...	820,000	
		33,706,838

The Chutteesghur Country.

Raepore Belaspore	... 3,280,000	
Sumbulpore	... 1,640,000	
Upper Godavery...	13,202	
		4,933,202
Grand Total...		47,344,914

334. Since then, however, a farther Estimate has been obtained of the actual out-turn of the crop. This unfortunately shews a result below previous expectation, owing to failure of season in various localities. On the other hand, the estimated exportation is very considerable. The Abstract of this last Estimate may be exhibited as below :—

ACTUAL OUT-TURN OF COTTON CROP.

The Nerbudda Country.

	lbs.	Total lbs.	Exported lbs.
Saugor ...	... 966,414		
Dumoh ...	... 700,000		
Hoshungabad	 1,011,840		
Jubbulpore ...	 1,191,542		
Mundla ...	... 22,140		
Nursingpore...	 1,515,920		
		5,407,856	4,512,836

The Nagpore Country.

Chindwarra ...	... 600,650		
Baitool ...	 100,000		
Seonee ...	... 184,000		
Nagpore ...	 9,860,280		
Wurdah ...	... 16,350,800		
Bhundarra ...	...		
Chanda ...	... 832,956		
		27,928,686	19,521,166

The Chutteesghur Country.

Raepore ...	... 2,600,000		
Belaspore ...	... 680,000		
Sumbulpore...	... 272,000		
Upper Godavery	... 13,202		
		3,565,202	3,068,000
	Grand Total...	36,901,744	27,102,902

335. The actual out-turn, then, appears to be thirty-seven millions of lbs. The estimated exportation of twenty-seven millions of lbs., during the recent spring and summer months of 1863, is certainly greater than any thing of the kind ever known before. The aggregate export of 1861-62 was estimated at from 20 to 22 millions of lbs. By far the greater portion is now exported to Bombay: the proportion exported to Mirzapore has been much less than heretofore. There is, moreover, a quantity of 3,225,636 lbs. still awaiting export so soon as the roads shall be open after the monsoon. In the winter of 1862-63, before the exporting season sets in, Circulars were sent to all District Officers, directing them to warn the Native Traders that the news from Europe foreboded a continued dearth of cotton, and that forethought was needed to provide carriage and transit for the quantities likely to be exported from this part of India.

Amount of probable Export of Cotton.

336. During the past season, the statistics of Cotton *cultivation* have been collected. In all the Cotton Districts, save those of Chutteesghur, and parts of the Chanda District, the field measurement of the whole country, by the Settlement Department, has been completed. From these field measurements, and village Maps, Extracts of all the fields under Cotton Cultivation have been made. These Extracts have been compiled, and, being based on the most minute survey of every field, are the most complete statistics that can be obtained. They cannot, of course, be absolutely guaranteed against error; but they rest on the best possible basis. For the Chutteesghur Districts the information is still only estimated; and is, therefore, proportionally less reliable. The field measurement (necessarily a long process) cannot be completed in Chutteesghur till the end of next year. The general result may be thus abstracted :—

Statistics of Cotton Cultivation.

	Acres.
The Nerbudda Country	162,811
The Nagpore Country	401,052
The Chutteesghur Country	64,158
Total.	628,021

These Statements of cultivation form a durable statistical foun-

dation, and supply the means of checking all future Estimates of out-turn of Crop, and of supposed fluctuations in the cultivation. That the culture is still increasing is the belief of the Natives themselves. The cultivation of 1862 was said to be double that of former years; and the sowings now going on are said to be one-fourth greater than those of last year.

Sowing of Foreign Cotton seed.

337. Last season a quantity of Egyptian Cotton-seed, supplied by the Honorary Agent of the Cotton Supply Association, was being distributed in the Wurdah Valley. But the seed was not received from Bombay until almost too late. The sowings, however, were effected, and the seed germinated in most places. Afterwards the plants fell off and languished, and the out-turn was poor. During this season quantities of acclimatized Dharwar seed, and also some Egyptian seed, have been sown, and as yet the out-turn promises to be good.

Cleaning and pressing of Cotton.

338. The propriety of setting up, on the part of Government, Machines for cleaning and pressing Cotton at the principal marts—to instruct the people—has been considered; and it has been ruled that the introduction of these appliances had better be left to private enterprise. A new Machine for cleaning Cotton has been exhibited at Nagpore, and it is probable that some of the Native traders will be induced to order on their own account some Machines both for cleaning and preparing. It is also proposed that the Local Committees should purchase some few Machines to exhibit to the people. It were, perhaps, superfluous to state that here, as elsewhere, the Natives are slow to adopt any Machinery until its benefit shall have been practically demonstrated before their eyes.

SECTION II.

ARBORICULTURE.

339. Considerable efforts were made during the last rainy season (1862) by the District Officers, and by the Public Works Department,

The planting out of young trees.

to increase the growth of trees; and many thousands of young seedlings were planted out. There was not sufficient information then available whereon to found a complete system of Arboriculture, and in many cases the various Officers in their zeal planted more trees than they had the means of tending and watering. This has now been remedied, and a precise system is laid down. The care of every Officer is to be, *first*, the establishment of nurseries; then, *second*, the planting out of young trees in groves on the road-side or other frequented place, where they can be economically watered and cared for; and *third*, the occasional planting out of avenues on specially selected sections of road. It is evident that avenue planting, though, perhaps, in some degree more ornamental, is less useful, and much more expensive and troublesome than any other kind of Arboriculture. Therefore, Officers are directed to attend to nurseries and groves before avenues, and only to adopt the latter in special cases. Tree nurseries have accordingly been established at all the seventeen Civil Stations; and at many of the Tehseel Stations, in the interior of Districts, many groves have been planted. On the main lines of road there are aproximately some 200 miles in different directions which have avenues of young trees. The Police have been instructed to plant young trees near their Posts, the tending of which affords useful amusement to the men in their scanty leisure. It is calculated that the Police in these Provinces can plant and tend some 30,000 trees in a year. Already they have planted many thousands. The Teak tree nurseries, which it is proposed to establish in the Hills, are mentioned under the Head of Forests.

System of Arboriculture prescribed.

Its present and future results.

SECTION III.

European Colonization and Waste Lands.

340. The localities where Waste Lands may be found in these Provinces, and the various considerations bearing upon them, were men-

Rules for the sale of Waste Lands.

tioned in my last Report, paragraphs 441 to 451. During the year under review, the Rules for the sale of Waste Lands, on the principles laid down by the Secretary of State and the Government of India, have been published. In these rules the most noticeable feature is this, that, in these Districts which are wild, jungly, remote, or insalubrious, the maximum limit for each grant is higher, and the rate of price per acre lower, than in those Districts which are free from the above disadvantages. It is hoped that, in this way, capital and enterprise may be attracted to those localities where their application is most needed, and that special inducement may be offered to Europeans to become the Pioneers of improvement in the wilderness.

Maximum limits of lots.

341. The maximum limits, then, of the quantity of land which will be sold in one lot in the several Districts, are as follows :—

In the Districts of—

Raepore, Belaspore, Sumbulpore, Mundla, Upper Godavery, Hoshungabad,	(5,000) five thousand acres.
Nagpore, Chanda, Bhundara, Wurda, Jubbulpore, Nursingpore, Chindwarra, Seonee, Saugor, Baitool, Dumoh,	(3,000) three thousand acres

342. The upset price of the lands to be sold will, ordinarily, be as follows :—

Rates of upset price.

I.—In the Raepore, Belaspore and Mundla Districts eight annas (one shilling) per acre.

II.—In the Sumbulpore and Upper Godavery Districts, one Rupee (two shillings) per acre.

III.—In the Hoshungabad, Nagpore, Chanda, Bhundara, Wurda, Jubbulpore, Nursingpore, Chindwarra, Seonee, Saugor, Baitool and Dumoh Districts, two Rupees and eight annas (five shillings) per acre.

Conditions of Sale.

343. On payment of one-tenth of the purchase money, and of the expenses of survey, demarcation, advertisement and sale, the purchaser will receive a Deed, signed by the Deputy Commissioner, conveying to him the lot in full hereditary and transferable proprietary right, free from all demand on account of Land Revenue for ever, but subject, nevertheless, to all general taxes and local rates imposed by Law or by the Local Government. There is no prohibition against the same person applying for two or more lots of land, provided that each application contains no more than the maximum of acres prescribed for the District or locality on which the said lots are situate. Every lot must be compact, and shall not include more than one tract of land in a ring-fence. Reserves of grazing land and forests; of land for the growth of firewood near Towns and Stations; of building sites, parks, recreation grounds; of tracts possessing mineral wealth, stone quarries and the like; and of land required for other special purposes, are not to be sold under these Rules without the express sanction of the Chief Commissioner.

Proposed sale of land in the Sonekan District.

344. The Supreme Government have, on special grounds, authorized the sale (under the general conditions of the above Rules) to Mr. Meik of sixteen thousand acres as a compact lot in one ring-fence, at the rate of four annas (six pence) per acre, in the tract known by the name of Sonekan belonging to the Belaspore District. The arrangements for giving effect to this are not complete, and the sale has not yet been actually made. I have, during the past season, myself examined this tract in company with the District Officer and the As-

sistant Superintendent of Forests. It is a Valley about twelve miles in length and three miles in mean breadth, permeated by the Jonk River shortly above its confluence with the Mahanuddy. The direction of the Valley is from south to north. On the west and the east side there are Hills running parallel to each other. The Hills on the east side have some Teak Forest and other useful trees. In the southern end of the Valley there is a Saul Forest of inferior growth. The Valley was once partially inhabited and cultivated, and belonged to a Zemindar named Narain Sing. He bore an evil repute from desperate and bloody deeds. In 1857 he rebelled; and was afterwards attacked, captured and executed. The Valley has been since deserted and left waste; the ruins of the houses, tanks and mangoe groves of Narain Sing alone remain amidst the brushwood which has overgrown the place. The property has been confiscated. The locality is regarded with a sort of superstition by the Natives of the neighbourhood. Various efforts to induce landholders to take charge of the property have failed; the last lessee, who took it on condition of paying Rupees 50 (£5) a year to Government, abandoned the lease. There is some very good ground here and there; but much of the soil is of second rate quality. The culturable soil has been estimated at 34,100 acres. The climate is, on the whole, moist and cool, but at certain seasons very insalubrious. Of labor there would be none on the spot; but a certain quantity could, doubtless, be obtained from the Chutteesghur Plains, which are within a distance of 20 miles; and in the event of valuable or surplus produce being raised then Sheonarain, the Head of the Monsoon Navigation of the Mahanuddy, is only fifteen miles distant. The forest lands would be reserved or disposed of under special conditions. On the whole, it may be said that, although the tract possesses several prospective advantages, yet it has serious drawbacks also.

SECTION IV.

Mineral Resources.

345. In my last Report, paragraphs 460 to 478, a description was given of the mineral resources of these Provinces.

346. During the year now under review, I have myself visited the Iron Mines of Tendoo Khera, near the north bank of the Nerbudda, (mentioned in paragraph 470 of the last Report,) and can testify to the highly promissing character of the locality. The ore is obtained by superficial excavations of the earth. Its quality is very good. The locality falls within the limit of the Charter of the Nurbudda Coal and Iron Company.

Iron Mines.

347. I have also been able to visit the Coal Mines belonging to the same Company at Mopaull, on the south bank of the Nerbudda, distant about 30 miles from the Tendoo Khera Iron Mines above-mentioned. I entered two long passages excavated on the side of the Hill. The Coal appeared to be good, and its supply to be very considerable. These Mines were mentioned in paragraph 478 of my last Report.

Nerbudda Coal Mines.

348. In the same paragraph was mentioned the Coal at Oomrait, near Mohtoor. I have visited this Mine in Company with the Reverend Mr. Hislop, who was one of the first to bring the place to notice. It has been worked by Mr. Stanbrough with some success. The section now laid bare affords promise of a much larger supply than was previously anticipated. At the time of my last Report, the thickness of the seam was supposed to be one foot, but this has now been discovered to be 4½ feet, half of which consists of good Cocking Coal; and although, as previously stated, the place is somewhat removed from the main course of traffic, yet, if the Mine should prove really valuable, the construction of a good road would bring the Coal, by ninety miles of easy transit, to Nagpore.

Coal near Oomrait.

SECTION V.

SURVEY.

349. The existing means of obtaining geographical and topo-

graphical information in these Provinces were explained in paragraphs 479 to 481 of my last Report.

Progress of the Revenue Survey.

350. During the past year now under review, strenuous effort has been made by the Surveyor General's Department to advance the Revenue Survey in various Districts. One Survey party under Captain Vanrenen has been engaged in the Saugor District; another under Lieut. Sconce in the Nursingpore and Hoshungabad Districts; another under Captain Grant in the Bhundara District. The country surveyed by these parties, village by village, during the season of 1862-63, amounts to upwards of 3,000 square miles. It is intended that the Survey of the Dumoh District shall be proceeded with by the party now in Saugor; that the Hoshungabad Survey be advanced by the party now there; that the Survey of the Chutteesghur Plateau be commenced by the party now in Bhundara; and that the Chanda Survey be commenced by Major Johnson's party to be transferred from the Punjab. By these means, in the course of two years hence, all the cultivated and inhabited tracts of the Central Provinces will have been surveyed, village by village, in a manner the same as that of the North-Western Provinces and the Punjab.

Topographical Surveys.

351. There will still, however, remain a vast area of wild, hilly and jungly, but partly cultivated and partly inhabited, country to be surveyed topographically. Such area can be only stated approximately, but it probably will not be found to fall far short of 100,000 square miles. With this, also, some progress is being made. The Topographical Survey under Major Saxton, advancing from the direction of Cuttack, has, during the past season, been at work in the hilly and savage country of the southern Dependencies of Sumbulpore. It is hoped that the Topographical Survey working in the Ranchee and Huzareebagh Countries, will ultimately take up the tracts that lie on the eastern frontier of Mundla and the northern frontier of Chutteesghur. It is also expected that the Topographical Survey in the Hyderabad Territories will be able to cross the Godavery, and take up the unsurveyed tracts on the British side of the river.

352. On the whole, it may be said that the Survey arrangements for these Provinces, as agreed to by the Surveyor General and sanctioned by the Supreme Government, are complete and satisfactory.

353. Captain Glasfurd's Sketch Map of the Bustar Country, which teems with information hitherto unknown, has been submitted to Government, and is being printed in the Surveyor General's Office.

Map of the Bustar Country.

354. I have only to add that the progress of the various Surveys is a matter of moment, and that the absence of Topographical information in many parts of these Provinces constitutes a real administrative difficulty, and a positive hinderance to improvement. This administration is, however, under great obligation to the Surveyor General, Colonel H. L. Thuillier, for the cordial manner in which he has responded to our solicitations for Survey parties.

SECTION VI.

FAIRS.

355. In paragraph 482 of my last Report, the peculiar advantages were explained of encouraging Fairs in these Provinces for the interchange of products and for the gradual civilizing of wild tribes by intercourse with other men. Special instructions were circulated among the District Officers to promote existing Fairs, and to establish new ones, as much as possible. This has been done to a considerable extent, and some new Fairs have been established. The following are the places where Fairs are now known to be held.

Encouragement of Fairs.

356. In the Saugor Territory, one Fair is held at Saugor itself; one at Korae, called the Fair of Birmachurree; and one at Kimlassa, on the frontier.

In the Valley of the Nerbudda, Fairs are held at the marble rocks near Jubbulpore; at Burmanghat, a spot on the river bank of great sanctity, near Nursingpore; at Nursingpore itself, and at Hoshungabad. In the Hill Districts, a Fair is held at Mooltye, the source of the Taptee; at Purtapore, the source of Wyn Gunga; at Choupara, on the

same river; at the cave and sacred spring on the Puchmurree Hill; at Hirdanuggur in the Mundla Hills. In the Nagpore Country there are Fairs at the sacred Hill of Ramteak; at Arvee, the Cotton Mart near the Wurda; at Chanda, near the same river; at a sacred spot on the Wyn Gunga near Bhundara. In the Chutteesghur Country there is a complete circle of fairs; at Droog, on the Sheonath river; at Nerbudda, a sacred spring north of Khyraghur; at Sheonarain, near the confluence of the Sheonath and the Mahanuddy; and at Rajum, on the south of Raepore. On the banks of the Mahanuddy there is the annual Fair at Sumbulpore; and, on the Godavery, there is the Fair at Kaleshwur, where the waters of the Godavery and the Pranheeta meet. There are fifty-four Fairs in all held annually in these Provinces.

SECTION VII.

CARRIAGE AND LABOR.

The forcing for Labor and Carriage prohibited.

357. In my last Report, paragraphs 483 to 487, there were mentioned the measures in progress for the prevention of forced labor, and the substitution of a free system. Since then the abolition of forced labor, and the unlawfulness of pressing, have been notified by Proclamation in every District of these Provinces. The strictest injunctions are laid upon the Civil Authorities and the Police to ensure the Law being obeyed. That the prohibition is always effectual, or that forcing never takes place, is more than can be affirmed or expected. But certainly the evil has been much mitigated, and the people are now thoroughly aware that the forcing of labor or carriage is contrary to the intentions of Government.

The Labor Agents.

358. Endeavour has also been made to ensure a free provision of local resources and supply of labor and carriage. At every station, Labor Agents, for the furnishing of bearers and laborers and carriage, have establish-

ed themselves under the countenance of the District Authorities. They charge a small commission on all they supply, which is paid by the party employing the labor. The price of labor thus supplied is regulated, of course, by the current market rates. As yet, however, these Labor Agents have *not* generally succeeded in furnishing a sufficient supply of labor, and do not afford satisfaction to travellers. They are strictly prohibited from using force in any way, though whether they always attend to that prohibition is doubtful. Thus the difficulty in obtaining labor and carriage is not yet removed. The fact appears to be that, in the present circumstances of the country, the service with travellers is not so remunerative to, or popular among, the laboring classes as the various other kinds of employment now open to them. Be this as it may, however, the first duty of the administration is to prevent force and oppression, and to place every thing upon a free and legitimate footing. Let that be done once for all, and matters will gradually right themselves without any interference from authority. In the meantime, the Civil Authorities and the Police are instructed to render every aid, which they *legitimately* can to travellers; and to be courteous and considerate in affording information to strangers.

SECTION VIII.

POPULATION.

Former Estimate of the Population.

359. In paragraph 488 of my last Report, it was stated that there were objections to the taking of a formal census in these Provinces. Those objections continue to exist. The population was supposed to be something under nine millions, or between eight and nine millions. This is, however, nothing more than an Estimate which cannot, as yet, be thoroughly checked. For almost all these Provinces, however, except Chuttecsghur, that is to say generally for the Saugor and Nerbudda country and the country of Nagpore Proper, there are the Returns of the Settlement Department. These Returns shew all the houses enumerated in all towns and villages. This enumeration is supported by

detailed Maps of the town or village, shewing every house and enclosure with its serial number. The result, therefore, should be reliable. Thus a sound basis is attained for estimating the population by assuming averages of persons to a house. This has been carefully done after consulting the Local Officers for the Districts of the Saugor, the Jubbulpore and the Nagpore Commissionerships or Divisions. The averages range in the several Districts and Tracts from three to five persons per house. The general average is about four persons. The result is subjoined :—

Improved Returns for a large portion of these Provinces.

Divisions.	Towns above 5,000 souls.	Villages.	Total.	No. of houses.	No. of souls.	General average of souls per houses.
Saugor ...	7	4,938	4,945	303,617	1,299,660	4
Jubbulpore ...	6	8,721	8,727	382,791	1,451,838	4
Nagpore ...	23	6,694	6,717	549,466	2,232,631	4
Total ...	36	20,353	20,389	1,235,874	4,984,129	12

Population of the principal Towns.

360. The following is a List of Towns in the foregoing Divisions having a population of above 8,000 souls :—

		Population.
In the Saugor Division.	Saugor ...	50,584
	Gurhakota ...	10,220
	Hoshungabad ...	8,815
In the Jubbulpore Division.	Jubbulpore ...	53,208
	Mundla ...	8,575
	Nursingpore ...	14,100
	Seonee ...	9,800
	Chindwarra ...	7,032

		Population.	
In the Nagpore Division.	Nagpore ...	1,34,155	
	Kamptee ...	65,068	
	Ramteak ...	12,696	
	Oomrair ...	17,040	
	Khapapet ...	9,116	
	Bhundara ...	16,440	
	Toomsur ...	8,263	
	Sahunguree ...	8,140	
	Pownee ...	19,476	
	Chanda ...	19,000	
	Hingun Ghaut ...	7,865	Cotton Marts.
	Arvee ...	6,903	
	Deolee ...	5,624	

361. It is to be remembered, of course, that the figures by no

means represent the whole population of the Central Provinces, as they do not include the Chutteesghur Division comprising the Districts of Raepore, Belaspore, the Chutteesghur Zemindarees Sumbulpore, the Gurjat States, and the Bustar State, for all which Districts there are not the means of forming any trustworthy estimate. Such means, will, however, be gradually afforded in the Chutteesghur Districts as the Settlement progresses.

Average density of the population in certain Districts.

362. In those Districts for which population Returns can be given, as abovementioned, in three only have the total areas been ascertained by the professional Survey, namely, Nagpore, Wurda and Jubbulpore. In these Districts the average density per square mile of estimated population may be thus seen:—

Nagpore and Wurda	...	151	persons per square mile.
Jubbulpore ...	...	102	" "

SECTION IX.

TRADE STATISTICS.

Mode of obtaining Returns of traffic.

363. In paragraph 489 of my last Report, it was stated that arrangements were being made for the collection of the statistics of trade and traffic in all the Towns and Cities, and on the main lines of road in these Provinces. Accordingly, during the past traffic season, that is from October 1862 to June 1863, Native writers have been posted in every District at selected points, on all main thoroughfares, to note down all the traffic that passed. These operations have been conducted with more or less efficiency throughout the country, and a mass of statistics is pouring into the Central Office, where every thing will have to be examined, tested by comparison and collated. This compilation will necessarily be a work of some little time. That the result of this, the first years work, will be correct, or even nearly

The collection of Trade Statistics.

correct, is hardly to be hoped for. But the errors which will be discovered will serve for future guidance; and something like a foundation for accurate statistics will be gained. It is intended to repeat the same process during the following year; and thus ultimately a true and comprehensive Return will be obtained for the trade of the Central Provinces.

SECTION X.

HOSPITALS AND DISPENSARIES.

364. In paragraphs 491 to 495 of my last Report a sketch of the Charitable Hospitals and Dispensaries was given. Within the year now under review seven new institutions have been opened, namely, those at the Nagpore City, at Seonee, Baitool, Hoshungabad, Mundla, Mohtoor, and Dumoh. Four new Hospital buildings have been erected within the past year. The best of these are the spacious and commodious Hospitals in the Nagpore City and at Seonee. Two additional Dispensaries have recently been ordered: one in the Seetabuldee Bazar, which is quite a town of itself, and an additional one in the City of Nagpore. The Nagpore City Hospital, recently opened, is proving successful, and attracts about a thousand patients a month. In accordance with the advice of the principal inhabitants, another institution will be opened. Including those previously existing and those now being provided, there will be four of these institutions in and about Nagpore.

New Dispensaries established.

365. There are now twenty-one of these institutions, Hospitals and Dispensaries, in the Central Provinces; and it is possible that several branch institutions may yet be added. The number of patients treated during 1861-62 was 32,932, and during 1862-63, 42,171, shewing an increase of 9,239 or 28 per cent. during the past year. There was

General results of these Institutions.

an increase of attendance at almost every institution. Of the 42,171, there were 38,838 out-door patients, that is those who attended and received medical treatment or medicines, and the remainder 3,333 were in-door patients, severe cases treated in-doors, the patients being accommodated in the buildings. Of the total number, again, 33,767 were males, and 8,404 females. The number of capital operations performed within the year amounted to 213. The annual cost of these institutions in 1862 amounted to Rupees 25,476, or £2,547; of which Rupees 5,444 or £544 were defrayed by private subscriptions and the remainder by the State. The aggregate expenditure will fall at the rate of $9\frac{3}{4}$ annas, or £0 1*s.* $2\frac{1}{2}$*d.* per patient.

Dispensary Committees.

366. Each institution has been placed under the management of a Committee, consisting of the Civil Officers at the Station and some of the principal Native inhabitants. Endeavours are made to raise private subscriptions, and to arouse the interest and sympathy of the upper and middle classes of the Natives themselves in this wide-spread and comprehensive charity, which is gratefully appreciated by the poorer classes, and is calculated to impart some impulse to civilization among an unenlightened population.

Small-pox and Vaccination.

367. Though here, as elsewhere, the small-pox spreads its ravages, and gathers in its harvest of death, it cannot be said that as yet in these Provinces vaccination has been either systematic or successful. A scheme is being prepared which will, it is hoped, secure a more complete result during the coming season. In the mean time vaccination in a sort of way is carried on. During 1862 some 7,020 cases were vaccinated, out of which 5,594 were reported successful.

Lunatic Asylum at Nagpore.

368. There has heretofore been no Asylum for lunatics in these Provinces. The want of such an institution has long been felt at Nagpore, where it has been necessary to confine the lunatics in the Common Jail, there being no suitable Asylum nearer than Benares. Recently, however, at Nagpore some vacant buildings with garden grounds have been appropriated for this purpose, and are being fitted up at a cost of Rupees 4,000, or £400, for the reception of some forty or fifty lunatics.

It will be necessary to establish a similar institution at either Saugor or Jubbulpore, as soon as resources shall be available.

Inspection of Dispensaries.

369. All these institutions, Hospitals and Dispensaries, and the operations connected therewith, have been placed under the general inspection of the Officer who inspects the Jails. It is hoped that, by these means, an uniform and progressive system of management may be introduced.

SECTION XI.

IMPROVEMENT OF THE BREED OF HORNED CATTLE AND SHEEP.

Alleged falling off in stock of horned Cattle and Sheep.

370. A communication from the Commissariat Commission sitting at Calcutta was received in the early part of the year, requesting information on the subject of the alleged decrease of the stock of horned cattle and sheep in the country. A general enquiry was thereupon made through the Local Officers. Their reports tended to confirm the allegation in regard to the stock in the country being on the decrease. Various causes were assigned, prominently disease and bad seasons, but none quite satisfactory or convincing. Measures were then adopted to conserve, so far as might be possible, the stock which remained. Each Local Committee was instructed to lay out funds in the importation of superior bulls: and in order to encourage graziers, District Officers were enjoined to permit them to pasture their sheep on unappropriated waste lands on payment of nominal fees, and further to give prizes for the best flocks at the district fairs. These measures have been generally adopted, and some results may be hoped for. But the subject is one in which, probably, improvement can be best effected by the growth of enterprise and understanding among the people themselves.

Measures adopted for improving the breed.

SECTION XII.

FORESTS.

371. In Section III., Chapter XIII. of my last Report, the Forests of these Provinces were mentioned in general terms. I then touched on the past history of the principal of these Forests, which history consists, unfortunately, of the annals of their decline and fall. It is sufficient to state, in recapitulation, that all the best Forests have been wastefully ravaged by timber dealers for the large City and Stations in Central India. The Forests of the Central Nagpore country have been exhausted for Nagpore and Kamptee; those of the Hyderabad those of the Mahanuddy for Cuttack; those of the Western Sautpoora Hills for Indore and Ocjein; those of the Eastern Sautpoora or Meikul Hills for Jubbulpore. Then there has been the gradual wastage caused for centuries by the barbarous agriculture of the Hill tribes. Much of the mischief in the past is irreparable; but care and vigilance in the present is needed, in order that there may be remedy in the future. It is now necessary that I should refer briefly to—*firstly*, the present state of the Forests; *secondly*, the uses for which timber is required; *thirdly*, the measures for ensuring a continuance of supply for the future.

Past exhaustion of the Forests.

372. Firstly, then in regard to the present state and uses of the Forests. Here, as elsewhere, the prince of trees is the teak. It is provided by nature in most parts of these Provinces: and its Forests have yielded first-rate logs in vast numbers difficult of calculation. The Superintendent of Forests supposes that within the last century a million of such logs must have been provided. But no conjecture can be hazarded as to the enormous number of undersized logs recklessly taken. This timber is prized by the people in these Provinces to a degree that would not readily be imagined. It is durable throughout ages; it combines lightness with strength; it is proof against destructive insects and dry rot above ground; it never rots under ground; it floats perfectly and can be conveyed by mountain torrents from the place of its growth to the place of its consumption; it does not require long seasoning; it never warps nor cracks,

The Teak Tree.

not even in the alterations of humid exhalations and burning winds; it can be easily sawn; it possesses a marvellous fitness for carving, even of the most refined and elaborate kind. At certain seasons it displays an external splendor and glory equal to its intrinsic merits. In the eyes of the Forester and the Dealer, all the virtues of which timber is capable are united in the teak. It is sought for by all classes, from the Maharatta Prince who erects his Palace in the Plains to the Gond savage who builds is hut in the Hills.

Its qualities.

373. Now-a-days, however, teak logs of large girth are scarce everywhere; and in many districts unobtainable. A few good logs may be occasionally obtained at some places south of the Nerbudda. *In one Forest only* are there now fine teak trees in any number worth counting; that Forest is at Ahiree near the confluence of the Wyn Gunga and the Godavery, where there are some 15,000 trees. This Forest and the scattered remnants of the once splendid Forests in other Districts are now cared for. There is, however, young teak springing up and growing in all directions, and in numbers beyond estimation. The prohibition which has now been in force two or three years against the cutting of young teak has proved efficacious even beyond expectation. I can myself testify to this from personal observation in many districts. The manner in which the Hill people have obeyed the prohibition, despite what must be then an alluring temptation, redounds to their credit. Much of the teak will be undersized, but still of great use for the domestic architecture of the people. And in the course of five or six years the young Forests must be thinned; and thus quantities of small teak wood will become available to the great satisfaction of the multitude. In the course of twenty or twenty-five years there will be quantities of middle sized teak to stimulate the timber trade. But the first rate teak trees that once adorned these Provinces will not be seen again by the present, and hardly even by the next, generation. If conservation, however, shall be perseveringly maintained for sixty years, then the Teak Forests of Central India may be reproduced.

Preservation of young trees.

374. The tree of next importance is the Saul (Shorea or Vatica Robusta). Its Forests are very extensive within the limits

The Saul Tree.

of these Provinces; but they are collected, as it were, within one mighty belt. This belt commences in the plateau beneath the Kymore Range in the Rewa country, near the left bank of the Soane. Stretching southwards it spreads all over the Mundla Hills, and clothes with wood and foliage the Hill sides of Umurkuntuk the source of the Nerbudda. Then continuing in a south-east direction, it fringes the northern frontier of Chutteesghur, and covers the Hills of all the Districts of the Mahanuddy and its affluents, down to the Eastern Ghauts. Then striking across the Gunjat country, it approaches the source of the Mahanuddy, and proceeds on to the Valley of Indrawutty and the Hills south of that river. And there at length it stops, having expanded luxuriantly over a length of seven or eight hundred miles. The tree does not appear on the banks of the Godavery in any appreciable abundance. The enormous area thus covered with Saul Forest does not always or even generally bear fine trees. Much of the Forest is poor and scrubby. But there are fine trees clustering thick in vast numbers through all the valleys which are deeply embosomed among the Hills. Beside this great belt, there are no Saul Forests of consequence in these Provinces, with one remarkable exception. Separated far away from the line of Saul country, there is a beautiful Forest of these trees, literally nestling in the lap of the Puchmurree Hills. All these Saul Forests have not as yet been ravaged save in a few places, and have nowhere been exhausted. From this description the practical deduction is, that our Saul resources are vast, but are unfortunately situated too far to the Eastward, as regards the convenience of the great Stations and Roads of the Central Provinces, with one exception. At the northern extremity of the Saul belt, the Forest of Bijeeragooghur can be made use of for the Allahabad and Jubbulpore Railway; at all other points there is a long distance to be laboriously traversed by land carriage, between the side of the Forests and the places in the heart of these Provinces where the timber is wanted. This circumstance detracts much from the value of the Forests as concerning the interests of Nagpore and Jubbulpore, and of the Railways leading thereto. But as respects the interests of Eastern Nagpore, the case is happily different. In these regions the water carriage of the Mahanuddy and its tributaries is available. The day may be anticipated when immense consignments of Saul timber shall be floated down these

Its Forests.

rivers to be used in works of improvement in the Coast Districts, or to be exported by Canal or by Sea.

The merits and demerits of Saul Timber.

375. In strength and durability the Saul is equal to the teak but deficient in many of those excellent qualities which the teak possesses. The Saul is so full of sap that it cannot be thoroughly seasoned in less then ten years, though by immersion in water it may be partially seasoned in five years. Until the wood is seasoned it is too heavy to float. It is hard, full of resin, and difficult to be sawn. If sawn before having been well seasoned it is apt to split and to warp. Under all circumstances it is heavy, and, therefore, expensive in transit. Still it is, on the whole, a valuable wood, and at this time it constitutes the only supply of first rate timber which we have to fall back upon. It may hereafter be used for Railway sleepers, but owing to the long time required for seasoning, this resource cannot come into play for the next ten years.

The Saj Tree.

376. Next in importance is the tree called Saj or Eyne, (Pentaptera tomentosa terminatia); inasmuch as the Teak timber is exhausted, and the Saul timber is not yet fit for use, it happens that the Saj timber is that which is chiefly used for public works in these Provinces. The Saj Forests have no marked limits of their own. The trees are to be found, more or less, all over the Hills and Valleys of these Provinces. They are found, however, in the greatest abundance along the southern face of the Sautpoora Hills, north of Nagpore, from the Valley of the Wurda on the west to the Lanjee Hills near the Frontier of Chutteesghur on the east. The peculiar advantage of the Saj is that it is the *only* tree which grows every where. The Saj has much the same merits and defects as the Saul; but is inferior to the Saul, as being coarse in grain, less capable of bearing exposure to the weather, and less secure against rotting under-ground. But if protected from damp, it is a good and serviceable wood, especially for the interior of buildings. On the other hand, it has one advantage over the Saul, as being less full of sap, and, therefore, requiring less time for seasoning. Its wood can be seasoned in three or four years, and, therefore, comes speedily into use. It is largely used, and supplies most of the sleepers and fencing posts

Its qualities.

for the Railways to Nagpore and Jubbulpore. Within the last three years about a quarter of a million of Saj trees have been felled in the Forests of the Sautpoora Range for these purposes.

The Kowa Tree.

377. Almost equal to the Saj in importance is the kindred *Kowa* (Terminatia arjuna). It is found in almost all the Districts of these Provinces. It loves the banks of Hill streams and great rivers, and will thrive no where else. In outward appearance it is the most picturesque of all the timber trees in these Provinces. Its bark is silvery white; its leaves are grey and sombre, like the foliage of the Olive; its trunk is massive; its branches are wide-spreading and pendant, whether standing majestically alongside the blue reaches of the Nerbudda near Mundla, or overshadowing the Towa River near Baitool, or fringing the Denwa River right beneath the sandstone precipices of the Puchmurree Hills, or crowning, with rich masses, the steep banks of the Mahanuddy; the Kowa tree cannot fail to impress itself on the memory of the Spectator. Its wood has most of the merits and demerits of the Saj; in one respect, perhaps, it is inferior to the Saj, as being even still harder. It has been used but little as yet for Railway sleepers. But as the Saj becomes comparatively exhausted the Kowa will come into play.

Places of its growth.

The Hurdoo and the Keim Trees.

378. There are two kindred trees growing, more or less, everywhere, and especially towards the Western portions of the Sautpoora Range, namely the Hurdoo and the Keim (Nauclea condifolia and Nauclea parvifolia). Their timber is light, easily worked, and tolerably durable; but has not the strength of the timbers previously described. It is possible that they may supply sleepers.

The other useful woods are—

Beejee Saul, (Pterocarpus marsupium).
Dhaora, (Conocarpus latifolia).
Lendya, (Lagerstroenia lanceolata).
Tendoo, (Ebony), (Dyospyrus melanoxylon).
Rohnee, (Soymida febrifuga).
Tuisa, (Dalbergia ojeiniensis).
Ronnja, (Acacia leucoplœa).

These also are found, more or less, everywhere. They are useful for common house building, furniture, agriculture, and country carriage, and are, therefore, of great value to the people at large. The Unjun is found in some places, but its wood is said to be brittle. There is a magnificent Bamboo jungle near the point where the Wyn Gunga debouches from the Sautpoora Range, and also in the Lanjee Hills. The common useful Babool tree (Acacia Arabica) is met with everywhere. None of the woods mentioned in this paragraph are fit for Railway sleepers, or other public works.

Other useful Trees.

380. Such being the present condition and uses of the Forests, I will now explain briefly the arrangements for preserving them. It was at first proposed to place restrictions upon nearly all the trees that have been mentioned. But it was found that such a measure, if enforced, would distress the people and even raise discontent. It was, therefore, decided to leave free from restriction of any kind all trees save the Teak, Saul, Saj, and Kowa. The cutting of Teak of all sizes is absolutely prohibited, save by express and specific permission. The cutting of Saul, Saj and Kowa, above a certain girth, is allowed; but below the girth it is prohibited. These arrangements are provisional, pending the ultimate sanction of the Supreme Government. For the present they prove certainly satisfactory to the people; and appear to sufficiently protect the public interest. The general enforcement of the Rules is for the present left to the Civil Authorities, under the inspection and control of the Forest Department. Certain of the best Forests are to be marked off as reserved tracts to be under the immediate management of the Forest Officers. The cost of all Establishments for watching the Forests, including the Superintendent of Forests and his Assistants and all contingencies, amounts to Rupees 60,000 or £6,000 per annum. This charge is more than covered by the revenue derived from the Royalty charged on every log of wood of the specified kinds, namely, Teak, Saul, Saj and Kowa,—the total income being somewhat above the expenditure. It may be mentioned also that Nurseries for Teak trees have been commenced at favorable spots in these Provinces, and that in the Agri-Horticultural Garden at Nagpore there are now about 1,000 young Teak plants in a thriving condition.

Measures for preserving the Forest.

381. Many Forests are within the jurisdiction of Rajas under political control, of Chiefs, and of large Zemindars. It is proposed that these also should be under the same Rules as all other Forests; the Chiefs receiving the Royalty and maintaining the Establishment. Definite arrangements have been already made to the above effect with some of the Chiefs.

Forests in the jurisdiction of Chiefs.

382. One great cause of wastage and destruction of the Forests is what is called "Dhuya" cultivation. Much was said and written on this peculiar cultivation; and some have supposed that it ought to be stopped altogether. It may, therefore, be desirable that I should explain the matter. This "Dhuya" cultivation is practically a substitute for ploughing and a device for saving the trouble of that operation. It is resorted to by Hill people who are averse to labor and have little or no agricultural capital. The method is in this wise: A piece of ground on a moderate slope is selected, clothed with trees, brushwood and grass; the trees are cut down in November, the brushwood and grass are set fire to in May, the charred ground is left covered with ashes; in the beginning of June quantities of seed are placed at the upper end of the slope; the rains descending wash the seed over and into the prepared ground; no ploughing or any other operation is resorted to. There springs up a plentiful crop, which has to be watched all day and night till it is cut. If not so watched, it would be eaten up by wild animals. In this manner all the pulses are raised. Besides this culture, there will be a few fields, around the homesteads, regularly ploughed, and growing superior products. The pulses, however, form the staple food of the Hill people in four Districts,* and in many parts of Districts adjacent to them. The population dependent mainly on Dhuya cultivation is between one and two millions. Now it is unfortunate that the best ground for this peculiar cultivation is precisely that where the finest timber trees like to grow. The damage thus done during ages is incalculable; but to stop this cultivation now would be a serious, indeed a lamentable, undertaking. It may be hoped that by degrees these Hill people will learn a better mode of cultivation. But to prohibit the Dhuya cultivation altogether would be to drive this widely scattered

The Dhuya cultivation.

* Mundla.
Seonee.
Chindwarra.
Baithool.

population to despair. Though rude and ignorant, they are not destitute of spirit and endurance; they have Clans and Chiefs; they are always predatory; and they have on occasions shewn themselves capable of armed resistance. If, by a prohibition of their favorite culture, they were reduced to any distress, they would resort to plunder, and especially to cattle stealing. And it is to be remembered that the great pasturage, whither the cattle from the Plain Districts resort, is situated in their country. Perhaps even they might resort to a sort of rebellion. And if they fled the country, the last state of the Forests would be worse than the first. For then the traces of human habitation, settlement and clearance, would disappear. The Foresters and the Wood-men could no longer live in, or even enter into, the wilderness, rank and malarious with uncleared jungle, and overrun with wild beasts. These animals are already so destructive as to constitute a real difficulty. The only check upon their becoming masters of the Forests is the presence of the Hill tribes; inasmuch then as the entire prohibition of Dhuya is out of the question the problem is how to check its extension without distressing the Hill people? It is possible to keep the culture within certain limits,—to prevent new ground being taken up by it and to restrict it to those spots where it has previously existed. In this manner further damage can be prevented. And it is to *this* object alone that our present efforts are directed.

The best mode of limiting it.

383. The general exploration of the Forests in these Provinces is now complete with a few exceptions. The Forests of the Nerbudda country were explored in 1860 and 1861 by Captain Pearson; those of Southern Nagpore by Lieutenant Stewart in 1862; and those of Eastern Nagpore and the Mahanuddy by Lieutenant Forsyth and Captain Burton in 1863. The services of the Forest Officers will be mentioned at the conclusion of this Report. These Provinces have had the benefit of a visit from Doctor Brandis, Conservator of Forests in British Burmah, who gave many valuable suggestions.

Exploration of the Forests.

384. The further prospects of timber may be thus summed up. At present the great drain is from the Saj Forests for sleepers and public works. Those

Future prospects of Timber.

trees are being fast used up ; but their entire exhaustion will not be permitted, enough will be left for reproduction. After the Saj the stress will fall upon the Kowa Forests, which will be made use of under similar restrictions. Thereafter, that is after a lapse of ten years, the Saul reserves may come into play. But it is never to be forgotten that if good Saul wood is to be available some years hence, *the cutting should commence now,* in order that there may be time for seasoning. The Teak Forests will not be of use till after the lapse of a lengthened period. It devolves on us now to repair the thoughtlessness and extravagance of the past generation, and to preserve Forests of which the coming generation may reap the benefit. Such, then, are our timber resources ; and it will have been seen, from the foregoing Chapter on Railways, that there is great apprehension that these resources will not suffice for the permanent supply of sleepers to our Railways.

CHAPTER XIII.

CONCLUSION.

Services of Officers connected with the Administration of the Central Provinces.

385. It remains for me to bring to the notice of the Supreme Government the names of those Officers who have rendered good service in the Administration of these Provinces during the year 1862-63.

386. Mr. John Strachey, the Judicial Commissioner, joined his important appointment in December 1862. He has devoted himself with well directed ability and with the best effect, to the establishment of Law and System ; to the regulation of all the Courts ; to the guidance of the new Police ; to the instruction of all Civil Officers in their duties ; and to the dispensing of substantial justice. I crave permission to declare my sense of the assistance he has rendered to the Administration, and the valuable counsel which he has afforded me on all occasions.

387. Captain H. Mackenzie has given the greatest satisfaction in the performance of his Secretariat duties. He has been of special use in regulating Establishments, and in enforcing rules and method among the several executive Departments. He was also, for five months, deputed to inspect the settlement operations in some twelve Districts. During that inspection he systematized the proceedings, introduced economy, and gave an impulse to the whole work. I have received great and constant assistance, in all respects, from Mr. Harry Rivett-Carnac, the Assistant Secretary, an Officer of ability and promise. He has accompanied me in the various Circuits.

388. The preceding Chapters of this Report will have shewn that the Commissioners of Divisions, Lieutenant Colonel J. K. Spence, Mr. J. S. Campbell, Lieutenant Colonel R. T. Snow, and Lieutenant Colonel J. G. Balmain have discharged their Judicial and Official duties in a prompt and effective manner. Lieutenant-Colonel J. K. Spence held the office of Judicial Commissioner from May to December 1862. His Judicial work has been very onerous, and has been performed with unremitting attention. Mr. J. S. Campbell has exercised a vigorous and able supervision over his Districts. Captain G. F. S. Browne acted as Commissioner of the Jubbulpore Division from January to June, and as Commissioner of the Nagpore Division from June to December. At Nagpore he disposed of a mass of arrears in a most creditable manner.

389. The Deputy Commissioners of the various Districts, on whom the efficiency of the Administration so much depends, have, as a body, done decidedly well. The simultaneous introduction of so many Rules, so many urgent measures, has unavoidably pressed hard upon them; but they have borne the pressure with cheerfulness and zeal. There are, among them, some who deserve especial notice.—Captain W. Nembhard, Deputy Commissioner of Jubbulpore, has, during the year, assessed the Land Tax for nearly the whole of his District; though relieved of the current work of the District, he has still maintained an effective supervision over it; he has advanced local improvements and promoted Education; of all the Deputy Commissioners in these Provinces, he has done the best service within the year. Major J. B. Dennys, Deputy Commissioner of Raepore, received charge of a

District where system had been relaxed, and work had fallen into arrears; he has succeeded in effecting a marked change in the conduct of business; he has vigorously commenced the Settlement, and has undertaken the construction of many Civil Buildings. Major H. B. Impey, Deputy Commissioner of Sumbulpore, having contributed largely to the pacification of that District, has made an equitable Settlement conducive to general contentment, and displayed judgment in managing the Gurjat Chiefs. Major J. H. Maclean, Deputy Commissioner of Dumoh, has assessed the Land Tax in a large portion of his District; he has proved himself a more than ordinarily good Magistrate, and has done much to promote Education. Captain W. B. Thompson, Deputy Commissioner of Seonee, has assessed the Land Tax in a large portion of his District; has visited remote and hilly tracts, making important suggestions for their improvement; has made roads in difficult places, and has projected valuable schemes for artificial irrigation. Captain J. Ashburner, Deputy Commissioner of Nagpore, has distinguished himself by material improvements effected in the City and Station of Nagpore; by the prompt disposal of business in a peculiarly onerous District,—by his supervision over the Honorary Magistrates, and by the introduction of the Mahratta language into the Courts of Justice. Captain C. L. R. Glasfurd continues to manage the Godavery District with judgment and intelligence. He rendered me much assistance and information during my tour on the Godavery River. His excellent Report on the Bustar country received the commendation of the Supreme Government.

390. The following Deputy Commissioners have also discharged their multifarious duties in an efficient and satisfactory manner:—

Major W. H. Crichton,	Deputy Commissioner,	Chanda.
Mr. J. H. Master,	ditto	Bhundara.
Captain C. Baldwin,	ditto	Baitool.
Captain A. B. Cumberlege,	ditto	Chindwarra.
Captain F. A. Fenton,	ditto	Hoshungabad.

391. Of the Assistant Commissioners the following have rendered great aid in their respective Districts:—

Captain C. V. Gordon.
Lieutenant G. A. Warner.
Captain H. F. Newmarch.
Lieutenant C. H. Plowden.

Mr. F. Macnaghten.
Lieutenant C. H. Grace.
Captain J. J. Fulton.
Mr. J. W. Chisholm.
Mr. J. H. MacGeorge.
Captain J. Loch.
Lieutenant F. D. Faber.
Mr. J. Beddy.

Of the above, Captain C. B. Gordon, Captain H. F. Newmarch, Lieutenant C. H. Plowden, Mr. J. W. Chisholm, and Mr. J. H. MacGeorge have officiated as Deputy Commissioners during the whole or a portion of the year.

392. Lieutenant Ricketts, Judge of the Small Cause Court at Jubbulpore, is a very promising Officer, and is now in charge of that District.

393. Majors R. Ouseley and F. L. Magniac, and Captain E. M. Playfair, Cantonment Joint Magistrate of Saugor, Jubbulpore and Kamptee respectively, have given satisfaction in their important charges. Major F. L. Magniac has recently been appointed Judge of the Small Cause Court at Nagpore, where his proceedings already give promise of success.

394. Of the Settlement Officers, I have to mention favorably Mr. A. B. Ross of Nagpore, who has, within the last season, assessed the Land Tax in the greater part of his District; Mr. W. Ramsay of Baitool; Mr. C. Elliott of Hoshungabad; Mr. H. Read of Saugor; Lieutenant J. Ducat, Assistant Settlement Officer at Hoshungabad, Mr. A. M. Russell at Jubbulpore; Mr. G. W. Cline at Chindwarra, and Mr. Sterndale at Seonee.

395. Mr. C. Bernard, though joining the Settlement of the Wurda District at a late period of the season, has yet made great progress, and evinced marked vigour and ability. He also officiated as Secretary to the Chief Commissioner for several months with entire efficiency.

396. Among the Extra Assistant Commissioners, the services of the following Officers merit acknowledgement:—

Mr. H. E. Wrottesley,
Mr. W. Munton,
Mr. T. L. Crawley,
Mr. D. A. Cameron,
Aga Mahomud Shoostree,
Moonshee Sheo Pershad,
Koonj Beharee Lal;

and among the Deputy Collectors in the Settlement Department—

Ashfaq Hossein,
Oulad Hossein,
Sooklal Sing,
Abdool Ruheem,

and among the Superintendent—

Joykishen.

397. Of the Tehseeldars or Sub-Collectors, the following have rendered specially good service in the year:—

Kishen Rao Rajeshur of Nagpore.
Inayut Hoosein of Hoshungabad.
Mirza Abid Alli of Raepore.

398. Of the Officers engaged in ministerial duties Mr. G. Barclay Superintendent Chief Commissioner's Office, deserves notice for his knowledge and carefulness, and also Mr. J. Bailey, Superintendent of the Judicial Commissioner's Office.

399. Before concluding this notice of the Officers engaged in the Civil Administration, it is just to state that the Uncovenanted Civil Service is very well represented in these Provinces. The preceding paragraph will have shewn how many of these gentlemen have acquired credit. Such Officers as Messrs. A. B. Ross, H. Read, J. Beddy, J. W. Chisholm, and many others already mentioned, are equal to high Civil duty, and would sustain the credit of any Administration.

400. Dr. R. T. Abbott, the Inspector of Prisons, has but lately joined his appointment. But he has already evinced zeal and energy, and has visited nearly all the widely scattered Jails in these Provinces.

401. I am able to report very favorably of the Police Officers generally. The Inspector General, Lieutenant-Colonel H. D. Taylor,

has uniformly evinced zeal and judgment. In effecting the greatest amount of reduction consistently with safety and efficiency; in distributing a comparatively weak Police over a vast area and a varied range of duties; in training all members of his Force, from the Officer to the Private, his management has been most commendable. The Deputy Inspector General, Major G. G. Moxon, continues to prove himself a zealous and experienced Officer. Among the District Superintendents the greatest praise is due to Captain W. J. Morris, Lieutenant E. R. H. Twyford, and Lieutenant H. Fraser; these three Officers have done much to establish the reputation of the new system in all respects.

402. The following District Superintendents of Police have also shewn themselves to be good Officers :—

Captain F. A. Dickens.
Captain W. F. Ireland.
Lieutenant T. A. Scott.
Captain E. B. Clay.
Mr. J. C. Duff.
Lieutenant T. E. Vandergucht.
Mr. J. M. Berrill.

Lieutenant H. A. Hammond and Lieutenant Vertue have been efficient as Assistants. Among the Inspectors Mr. M. P. Hemken, Mr. J. Macmarquis, Mr. A. Wrixon, and Mr. S. Ballard have evinced promise of future usefulness. The Superintendent of the Municipal Police at Nagpore, Mahomed Booden (who was trained in the Bombay Police), has given the greatest satisfaction to the Civil Authorities and to the Native Community; and his conduct justifies the most marked commendation.

403. Lastly, it is right to recollect the great service rendered to these Provinces by Lieutenant-Colonel H. Bruce, C. B., Inspector General of Police in India, in the original organization of the Police in these Provinces. This Administration is, indeed, under great obligation to that able Officer.

404. In the Educational Department, the newly appointed Director of Public Instruction, Captain P. Dods, has applied himself with tact and skill to founding a good system of Education amongst a peculiarly ignorant population. Of his Circle, Inspector M. C. Brown-

ing has proved himself eminently fitted, by zeal and qualifications for the important post he holds; Lieutenant G. H. Trevor is a young Officer of good attainments and high character; and Mr. Ram Chundra Denanath (from Bombay) is a Native gentleman of practical ability and experience. Among the District Inspector and other Officials, the following should be noticed:—

Poorshotum Rao Narain, Head Clerk, Director Public Instruction's Office and Curator of Government Books.

Pundit Beharee Lall,
Moulvie Sufdar Ally,
Moonshee Roshun Lall,
Pundit Ramdyall,
Sreekrishna Sastree,
Venkut Rao Narain,
} District Inspectors.

405. The work of the Deputy Auditor and Accountant General has, so far as this Administration is concerned, been efficiently carried on during the year by Mr. J. Ede and Mr. W. Biss; every assistance and information has been rendered by both these Officers.

406. In the Public Works Department, the Officers who have held the post of Chief Engineer during the year, Lieutenant Colonel J. H. Maxwell and Lieutenant Colonel A. Impey have done their utmost to enforce regularity, system and economy; to have the Designs and Estimates prepared in a due professional manner; and to cause the work to be executed well and quickly. In the Secretariat Department they have rendered me the most cordial assistance. Captain F. Cobbe, Assistant to Chief Engineer, has conducted the affairs of a difficult office in a highly satisfactory manner, and has proved himself an excellent Secretary. Captain A. Cadell has recently been appointed Superintendent of all the works in the Northern Circle. He is known to be an energetic and able Officer. Of the Executive Officers in these Provinces, Mr. J. H. Heyman continues to be the foremost in practical knowledge, in administrative aptitude, and in professional ability generally it would be difficult to find a better man for the duties required in Provinces like these, he has made great progress in the Jubbulpore and Nagpore Road. Next after him ranks Mr. J. W. O'Donnel, an officer of long experience and great executive aptitude. Captain B. Prior has made fair

progress with the Trunk Road from Kamptee towards Jubbulpore. Captain W. D. Chapman has shewn marked ability in the alignment of Roads through difficult country, and proves himself to be an effective Executive Engineer in a large Military Cantonment. Lieutenant H. G. Puckle displayed zeal and aptitude, despite of harassing sickness, in framing of Road Estimates in a wild and unhealthy country. Mr. J. W. Henry, Assistant Executive Officer, has shewn professional skill in the construction of the Kunhan Bridge. Mr. A. Wilson, Assistant Executive Engineer, has done good service on the Jubbulpore Road. The services of Mr. J. Whiting (Supervisor) in the construction of the Wyn Gunga Bridge have been conspicuous, there is not a more excellent or meritorious Officer of his class to be found in the Central Provinces. Mr. A. R. Moseley also is entitled to cerdit for the architectural skill with which he renovated the ruined Mahratta buildings near Nagpore. Two young Civil Engineers, Messrs. H. Bell and F. L. O'Callagan, recently joined, have already evinced promise of future usefulness. Mr. J. W. L. Hanna also has recently joined his post as Superintendent of Irrigation in Nagpore; within a brief period he has made extensive enquiries, and has amassed information of great professional value.

407. In the Account Department of the Department of Public Works, Mr. A. G. Crommelin has rendered great service in reducing the accounts to order and in enforcing economy.

408. In the Forest Department, Captain G. F. Pearson has watched over the conservation of these important interests with care and devotion. Lieutenant J. Forsyth has assisted in all branches of Forest Management; and in company with Captain J. E. Burton (of Her Majesty's 91st Regiment) has explored the wooden country on our Eastern Frontier. Lieutenant W. Douglas, of the same Department, has been usefully employed in the Rewah Forests.

409. In the Customs Department, Messrs. W. O. Bell and W. Melville, Collectors, and Mr. R. K. Bartie, Patrol, have rendered effective service.

410. In the Revenue Survey, Captain A. D. Vanrenen at Saugor, and Lieutenant J. Sconce at Nursingpore, have executed a large amount of work, and have given satisfaction to all the Authorities with whom they have come in contact.

411. Among the Civil Surgeons, Dr. W. W. Heude of Nagpore has distinguished himself in the establishment of Dispensaries, and has caused the Natives to appreciate his skill and benevolence. Drs. J. Wilson, W. R. Rice, and C. E. W. Bensley have managed their respective Dispensaries, with entire success. Dr. J. Cameron of Sironcha, is an officer of scientific ability, and has rendered aid to the general administration of that District. Drs. W. Grylls, W. Roberts, H. King, T. O'Devaine, C. Trimnell, G. F. Trimnell, P. Cullen, J. Law, J. F. Barter, H. J. Beach, and N. Jackson have rendered good service. Apothecaries T. King, T. H. Carr, and W. Thomas have also done their work well.

In my last Report the name of Mr. G. Law was inadvertently omitted. That gentleman rendered good service in his medical capacity with the Nagpore Irregular Force during the period of disturbance, and received from Government the Rank of Assistant Surgeon.

412. In paragraph 511 of the last Report, I specified briefly the matters to which attention was then being directed. It will now be proper to state, in recapitulation of the present Report, what has actually been done from May 1862 to the present time of writing August 1863,—following the order of the foregoing Chapters.

Recapitulation.

Chapter I.—Introductory.

I.—One new Division or Commissionship and two additional Districts have been formed.

Chapter II.—Law and System.

II.—The Codes of Civil and Criminal Procedure have been introduced throughout these Provinces.

III.—The Punjab Code of principles of Law has been enforced in the Courts.

IV.—The following Acts of the legislature have been extended to the Central Provinces :—

Act XIV. of 1859.
" X. of 1862.
" XLII. of 1860, as amended by Act XII of 1861.
" X. of 1859, as amended by Act XIV of 1863.

Act XV. of 1862.
„ IX. of 1860,
Section 34 of Act V. of 1861.

V.—The following Acts have been proposed to be introduced :—

Act XI. of 1863.
„ XIII. of 1859.
„ XXVI. of 1850.
„ XXI. of 1856.
„ XIX. of 1862.

VI.—The attention of Judicial Officers has been drawn to the following Laws and Regulations which already apply to these Provinces :—

Regulation X. of 1793.
„ XXVI. of 1793.
„ L. of 1793.
„ LV. of 1795.
„ III. of 1796.
„ VII. of 1796.
„ VII. of 1799.
„ I. of 1329.
Acts XXII. of 1854 and XL. of 1858.
Regulation XVII. of 1795.
„ II. of 1797.
„ VI. of 1810.
„ III. of 1812.
„ VIII. of 1814.
„ XX. of 1817.
„ VI. of 1825.
„ VI. of 1819.
Act XIX. of 1843.
„ I. of 1849 and VII. of 1854.
„ XIV. of 1853 and II. of 1855.
„ III. of 1857 and I. of 1860.
„ XXXV. and XXXVI. of 1858.
„ XXI. of 1857.

VII.—A Code comprising all requisite orders for the conduct of Land Revenue Settlements has been framed.

VIII.—Forty-one sets of Executive Rules have been framed and circulated for the regulation of the Judicial, Fiscal, Financial, Educational and General Branches of the Administration.

Chapter III.—Judicial Sections 1 and 2.

IX.—The Office of the Judicial Commissioner for these Provinces has been duly constituted.

X.—Two Small Cause Courts have been established, one at each of the two principal Cities.

XI.—All Judicial arrears previous to May 1862, whether Criminal or Civil, in all Courts, whether of Appellate or Original jurisdiction, have been cleared away.

XII.—The average duration of Civil suits, of trials before the Magistrates, and of appeals in all branches, has been diminished.

XIII.—A proper despatch, in the disposal of Criminal trials before the Courts of Session, has been secured; and a system of regular Circuits has been prescribed.

XIV.—The Rule which prescribes the recording of evidence by the hand of the Judge in Civil suits has been enforced and extended.

XV.—The Mahratta language has been admitted into the Courts of the Districts where it is the Vernacular.

XVI.—The establishing of Clerks of the Courts has been commenced.

XVII.—The Courts have been cleared of unauthorized Agents and Pleaders, and Rules for the admission of duly qualified Pleaders have been promulgated.

XVIII.—Some 64 Native Chiefs, and gentry have been vested, or recommended to be vested, with Magisterial powers.

XIX.—Half the Criminal business of the Nagpore District has been performed by the Court of Honorary Magistrates sitting in that City.

Section 3.—Police.

XX.—The entire Police has been re-organized at a saving of 7¼ lakhs of Rupees

(£72,500).

XXI.—Two Regiments of Irregular Infantry and 250 Cavalry have been broken up since May 1862; and a further reduction of upwards of 500 men of all arms has been proposed.

XXII.—The establishment of Town duties, for the defrayal of cost of Municipal Police, have been extended to many Towns and Cities.

XXIII.—A number of Native Chiefs and gentry have been recommended to be vested with the powers of Honorary Police Officers.

XXIV.—One Central Jail has been designed, and one commenced; one District Jail has been commenced, and two new Jails have been formed by the adaptation of old buildings to that purpose.

Section 4.—Jails.

XXV.—The Office of Inspector of Jails has been duly constituted.

XXVI.—Some improvement has been effected in Jail Discipline by the instruction of the Prisoners in reading and writing, and by the introduction of the Good Behaviour System.

XXVII.—The Land Tax has been assessed in 10,461 Estates, at an amount of about 25 lakhs of Rupees (or £250,000) per annum for a period of thirty years.

Chapter IV.—Revenue.

XXVIII.—The Proprietary and other rights in the soil have been determined on 5,821 Estates.

XXIX.—The demarcation of unclaimed Waste Land has been arranged for and commenced.

XXX.—The Settlement Offices in the various Districts have been specially inspected; and the appointment of a Settlement Commissioner has been sanctioned.

XXXI.—The tanks and minor irrigation works in the Nagpore Province have been examined, and Rupees 38,737, or £3,873, have been paid or advanced for that purpose.

XXXII.—The Salt Tax has been extended into three Districts previously exempt, and a re-distribution of the Local and Imperial Lines has been recommended.

XXXIII.—The Excise on intoxicating liquors has been modified

by the enforcement of the Sudder Distillery system in the Northern and Midland Districts of these Provinces.

XXXIV.—The new Stamp Law has been worked at a considerable increase to the Revenue.

XXXV.—The establishment of scales has been sanctioned at Nagpore for the weighment of Opium destined for exportation *viâ* Bombay to China.

XXXVI.—The local Sugar Tax has been abolished, and the intended Tobacco Tax has been abandoned.

Chapter V.—Education.

XXXVII.—A system of State Education has been provided. A Director of Public Instruction, three Circle Inspectors and a staff of District Inspectors have been appointed.

XXXVIII.—The administration of Schools in the interior of the country, which may be under Government support, assistance, or inspection, has been entrusted to the Civil Authorities.

XXXIX.—A Cess of one per cent. on the Land Tax, for the support of Village Schools, has been levied under agreements made at the Settlement.

XL.—There have been nine Normal Schools established; five Mission Schools have received Grants-in-aid; 418 new Government Schools have been founded or reconstituted; and 735 Indigenous Schools have been brought under inspection.

XLI.—Three Book Depôts have been established, and 13,600 books sold to the people.

XLII.—A Central Museum has been established at Nagpore, and a suitable building is being constructed.

Chapter VI.—Public Works.

XLIII.—The Sanatarium on the Mohtoor Hills has been sanctioned, and the erection of Barracks for convalescents has been commenced; and the Puchmurree Hills have been examined, with a view to establishing a Sanatarium there.

XLIV.—Under the head of Military Buildings, the erection of permanent Barracks and Family Quarters for the European Infantry at Saugor has been proposed.

XLV.—Under the head of Civil Buildings, one Court-house has been completed and ten commenced. Police Lines at two large Stations have been erected, and 13 Caravanserais for the accommodation of travellers are under construction.

XLVI—One hundred and seventeen miles of Trunk Road have been completed in all respects; some 119 miles, though not completed, have been opened for traffic; some 371¾ miles are under construction; some 162 miles, not commenced, have been surveyed and estimated for; 400 miles have been marked out and improved.

XLVII.—In all, some 1,169¾ miles of road have been under operations—preliminary, intermediate, or final—during the year 1862-63.

XLVIII.—Some 13 bridges of large size, and 119 smaller bridges, have been constructed or commenced during the year.

XLIX.—Sites have been discovered for the construction of two important reservoirs, which might be made use of to supply water for the irrigation of the Nagpore country, and for the better navigation of the Godavery.

L.—Three sites have been found for the construction of reservoirs for artificial irrigation in the Seonee District.

LI.—Sites have been determined for the Railway Stations on the lines to Jubbulpore and to Nagpore, and for the terminus at Nagpore.

LII.—Some 218,000 sleepers have been supplied to the Railway from the Forests of these Provinces.

LIII.—A Tramway from Nagpore to the Chutteesghur country has been considered.

LIV.—Municipal works have been carried out at Nagpore, and also at Saugor, Jubbulpore, Hingun Ghaut, Kamptee, Raepore, Bhundarra, Chanda and Seonee.

LV.—New boats of various sizes have been constructed for many of the Ferries.

LVI.—Some nine lakhs of Rupees or £90,442 have been expended during the year on Civil and Military buildings, roads and bridges, and works of internal improvement.

Chapter VII Post Office.

LVII.—Regular Post Offices have been opened for three additional Districts, and a scheme for establishing Regular Post Offices for all Towns in the interior has been proposed.

Chapter VIII.—Electric Telegraph.

LVIII.—Two new Electric Telegraph Lines, one from Jubbulpore to Saugor, and one down the valley of the Godavery, have been proposed.

Chapter IX.—Marine and Navigation.

LIX.—The general questions connected with the navigation of the Godavery have been reported on; and the principles on which the work is to be proceeded with, under the control of this Administration, have been determined.

LX.—The valleys and countries adjacent to the Mahanuddy have been examined, with a view to open out communication by water.

Chapter X.—Financial.

LXI.—All the Civil Establishments have been revised on an uniform scale, at a saving of 3 lakhs of Rupees, or £30,000 per annum.

LXII.—The Office of Deputy Auditor and Accountant General for these Provinces has been duly constituted.

LXIII.—An Agency of the Bank of Bengal has been established at Nagpore; the Government Treasury business has been entrusted to it; and the circulation of Government Currency Notes has been commenced.

LXIV.—Arrangements have been proposed for the gradual withdrawal of the old Silver coinage (Mahratta or Nagpore) and for the better circulation of the Copper coinage.

Chapter XI.—Eclesiastical.

LXV.—In the Ecclesiastical Department,—one new Church has been completed, one commenced, and two have been ordered.

Chapter XII.—Political.

LXVI.—In the Political Departments—serious disputes between the Rajahs of Bustar and Jeypore, and between the Thât Pât Rajahs have been settled: the Gurjat Chiefs have been formally vested with Magisterial powers within their respective States.

Capter XIII.—Military.

LXVII.—Three additional Military Stations have been established, consequent on the breaking up of the Irregular Troops; and Military Detachments have been withdrawn from three Civil Stations on the re-organization of the Police.

Chapter XIV.—Miscellaneous.

LXVIII.—An Agri-Horticultural Society for the Central Provinces has been formed, with its Head Quarters, at Nagpore; and a system of Arboriculture has been established in all the Districts.

LXIX.—Statistics of the cultivation, production and exportation of cotton have been collected.

LXX.—Quantities of Dharwar Cotton seed have been sown, and some cheap Cleaning Machines and Presses are proposed to be ordered by Local Committees.

LXXI.—Rules for the sale of Waste Lands in the Central Provinces have been promulgated.

LXXII.—The Forests on the Eastern Frontier have been explored; arrangements have been made for demarcating some of the reserved Forest tracts in parts of the Sautpoora Range, and provisional Rules for conservation of Forests have been acted upon.

LXXIII.—Some three thousand square miles have been surveyed by the Professional Revenue Survey within the year; and the Topograghical Survey on the Eastern Frontier has been advanced.

LXXIV.—Fairs, for the promotion of trade, have been encouraged and new Fairs established.

LXXV.—Forced labor and carriage has been prohibited; and, in the main, prevented throughout these Provinces.

LXXVI.—Population Statistics have been collated.

LXXVII.—Trade Statistics have been collected by Establishments entertained for that purpose.

LXXVIII.—Some four additional Dispensaries have been established within the year; the number of patients at the Dispensaries gene-

rally has been increased by ten thousand, and a plan for extending vaccination has been proposed.

LXXIX.—Measures have been adopted for improving the breed of sheep and horned cattle.

413. The result of the year's administration, as recapitulated above, may appear less than it ought to be. It is certainly far below the requirements of the Country. Still I know that the Officers employed in the different Departments have done, and will continue to do, their best to overcome the difficulties incidental to these remote and isolated Provinces. And for the shortcomings which may have been, or may still be, perceptible, I can only rely on the indulgent consideration of His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor General in Council.

NAGPORE;
The 12th August, 1863.

(Signed) R. TEMPLE,
Offg. Chief Commr., Central Provinces.

APPENDIX.

Abstract Statement of Receipts and Disbursements of the Central Provinces for 1862-63.

	RECEIPTS.	Receipts on account of former years.	Receipts on account of 1862-63.	TOTAL.		DISBURSEMENTS.	Expenditure on account of former years.	Payments on account of 1862-63.	TOTAL.
	CASH BALANCES.	Rupees.	Rupees.	Rupees.			Rupees.	Rupees.	Rupees.
I.	Land Revenue, &c. — 1—Land Revenue	2,31,378	19,01,955	21,33,333	A.—	Allowances, Refund and Drawback	7,474	2,952	10,426
	2—Sayer	1,021	1,91,051	1,92,072					
	3—Abkaree	75,562	2,01,196	2,76,758					
II.	Assessed Taxes — 1—Income Tax	49,169	2,87,849	3,37,018					
III.	Customs — 1 Imports	"	2,12,991	2,12,991					
	2 Exports	"	"	"					
IV.	Salt — 1 Customs duty,&c.	"	13,00,744	13,00,744					
	2 Sales								
V.	Opium	"	7,051	7,051					
VI.	Stamps	"	2,61,132	2,61,132					
VII.	Mint	"	"	"					
VIII.	Post Office — File XII.	"	"	"					
IX.	Electric Telegraph	"	"	"					
X.	Law and Justice	"	80,142	80,142					
XI.	Police	"	6,424	6,424					
XII.	Marine	"	"	"					
XIII.	Public Works	"	"	"		II.—Allowances and Assignments under Treaties and Engagements	43,336	2,56,402	3,14,738
XIV.	Tributes and Contributions on account of Contingent from Native States	"	"	"		III.—Allowances to District and Village Officers	14,874	12,84,1	17,5
XV.	Miscellaneous, Civil	"	70,819	70,819		IV.—Miscellaneous	6,482	19,101	25,583
						V.—Contingencies, Special and Temporary	50	4,004	4,054
	Total	3,79,870	50,05,404	54,45,274		Total	67,915	3,11,659	3,79,574
							1,20,021	20,18,8 3	21,40,789
					C.—	Army	"	"	"
					D.—	Navy	"	"	"
					E.—	Works of internal Improvement and Public conveniences	"	"	"
					F.—	Civil services —			
						I.—Civil Buildings	"	"	"
XVI.	INTEREST —					II.—Palaces and Expenses of Public Departments	52,681	2,87,153	3,39,834
	1—On Imperial Loans (over-payments recovered)	"	"	"		III.—Law and Justice	93,35	5,07,0	6,00,324
	2—On Local Loans (Mhow)	"	"	"		IV.—Police	1,11,791	10,64,982	11,67,773
	3—On advances to Service Funds	"	"	"		V.—Education, Science and Art	1,064	1,03,0	1,04,530
	4—On other Accounts	"	"	"		VI.—Political Agencies and other Foreign Services	"	219	219
						VII.—Superannuations and Retired Allowances and Gratuities for Charitable and other purposes	50,998	1,82,5	1,83,739
	Total	"	"	"		VIII.—Marine	"	"	"
						IX.—Miscellaneous	151	57,7	57,497
						X.—Civil Contingencies, Special and Temporary	78	2,3 4	2,012
						Total	3,10,104	27,56,484	30,67,729
						Total A. to F.	3,30,025	47,69,1	51,17,870
XVII.	PUBLIC DEBT —								
	1—Public Loans, Imperial (Subscription)	"	"	"	G.—	INTEREST —			
	2—Local Loans (Mhow)	"	"	"		I.—On Imperial Loans	"	"	"
	3—Local Loans	"	"	"		II.—On Local Loans	"	"	"
	4—Service Funds	"	"	"		III.—On Service Funds	"	"	"
	5—Local Funds	"	3,71,756	"		IV.—On other Accounts	"	"	"
	6—Deposits	"	13,16,854	"	H.—	PUBLIC DEBT —			
	7—Miscellaneous (Advances repayable, &c.)	"	1,41,152	"		I.—Imperial Loans under liquidation and transfer	"	"	"
	8—Railway Traffic Account	"	"	"		II.—Local Loans under liquidation	"	"	"
	9—Local Remittances—					III.—Service Funds	"	"	"
	Cash received	"	37,17,003			IV.—Local Funds	"	2,43,7 2	"
	Bills drawn	"	2,54,547			V.—Deposits	"	17,81,8 8	"
	Military Remittances	"	"			VI.—Miscellaneous (Advances repayable, &c.)	"	2,46,677	"
	Marine Remittances	"	"			VII.—Railway Traffic Account	"	"	"
	Public Works Remittances	"	59,044			VIII.—Local Remittances—			
				60,87,093		Cash received	"	38,33,206	
						Bills paid	"	8,14,131	
XVIII.	ACCOUNT CURRENT —					Military Remittances	"	"	
	1—On account of other Governments	"	"			Marine Remittances	"	"	
	2—On account of Provinces	"	6,119			Public Works remittances	"	20,07,747	
									67,80,026
					I.—	ACCOUNT CURRENT —			
				6,119		I.—On account of other Governments	4,951	13,741	18,692
XIX.	Remittances from other Governments	"	"	61,53,904	J.—	Remittances to other Governments	"	"	61,53,904
	GENERAL GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.					GENERAL GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.			
	Post Office Remittances	"	81,941			Post Office Remittances	"	2,05,472	"
	Electric Telegraph Remittances	"	8,711			Electric Telegraph Remittances	"	69,207	2,75,179
				90,652		Total	"	"	3,93,64,763
						Cash Balance	"	"	45,16,162
	GRAND TOTAL	"	"	3,40,80,963		Grand Total	"	"	3,40,80,963

* NOTE.—The total of charges under Headings A. to F. ... Rupees 43,17,870
Add G. and F. I. ... 8,04,429
Total ... 51,22,299

Nagpore:
The 4th July 1863.

(Signed) WEBSTER, Lieut.,
Dep. Asstt. and Asst. Cmd., Central Provinces.

REPORT

ON THE

ADMINISTRATION

OF THE

CENTRAL PROVINCES

FOR THE YEAR 1863-64.

BY

R. TEMPLE, ESQUIRE, B. C. S.

NAGPORE:

PRINTED AT THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE PRESS.

1864.

133943

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CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTION.

I PROCEED to submit the third Report of the Administration of the Central Provinces, comprising mainly the proceedings of the year 1863-64. The two previous Reports gave a general description of the country, to which I have little now to add. The last Report for 1862-63 also mentioned the various tours that had been undertaken. During a portion of the year under review, 1863-64, I have been absent from these Provinces. Being relieved by Colonel E. K. Elliott towards the end of December, I proceeded to Calcutta, and returned to these Provinces in the middle of March.

The several tours which have been undertaken.

2. Since the submission of the last Report, I made, in August 1863, a tour down the valley of the Wurda to inspect the roads; the sites for the Railway Stations, and for the Civil Stations; the Municipal improvements at the Cotton Marts; the experiments in cotton culture in that District. In January I marched up the wild valley of the Pench river north of Nagpore, to examine a project for a large reservoir for storing the waters of that river, with a view to the supply of the Godavery and the irrigation of the Plains of Nagpore. Towards the end of April I marched through the Baitool and Hoshungabad Districts, to inspect the new Line for the Imperial Customs Department which is being laid down in that quarter. The month of May was spent in marching through the territory of Nimar. I returned to Head Quarters on the 7th June.

General condition of the people.

3. Having briefly described the aspect of these Provinces in previous Reports, I shall on this occasion confine myself to mentioning a few salient circumstances which have affected the condition of the people during the year under review.

4. The most noticeable matter is the rapid rise in the price of all artieles, whether of food, or other necessaries of life; or of luxuries; and also the increase in the rates of wages for every sort of employment, whether of labor or of skill, or of the more intellectual kinds. The struggle for subsistance, for position, for fortune, is becoming more and more vigorous with all classes, whether European or Native, whether the gentry or the middle classes, or the yeomen, or the husbandmen, or the poor. This feature is, doubtless, not peculiar to these Provinces; but must be more or less observable in all parts of India. But nowhere can it be more prominent than in the Nagpore country, and nowhere can it present a greater contrast between the present and the past.

High prices of food.

5. In the Nagpore country, and in the richer portions of these Provinces generally, there have been causes at work to raise the prices of food.

Causes of this.

6. The area under Cotton cultivation has very much increased. From enquiries that have been going on for the past two years, it may be said that this particular area has increased by about 47,000 acres. It is not possible to state the exact fluctuations in the area cultivated with cereals, and other products. But there has certainly been no increase in these respects to correspond with the increase in Cotton. And, on the whole, it may be inferred that much of the additional Cotton culture stated above has displaced the culture of cereals. It is to be feared then that less grain is produced now than formerly, in some parts at least of these Provinces.

Increase of Cotton cultivation displacing grain.

7. But while on the one hand there has been no increase, and perhaps even a decrease, in the production of grain in the country, there has on the other hand been a greatly increased exportation; the two causes together combining to raise the price of food.

Increased exportation of grain.

8. The Nerbudda Valley has, indeed, for ages been a rich granary and a grain exporting country. So far back as the fifteenth century Abdool Fuzl, in the reign of Akbur the Great, writing of Gurrah (now Jubbulpore) says,—"This province is so fertile that it supplies both the Deccan and Guzerat with grain." *

* Ayeen Akberre (Gladwin's) Vol. II. page 41.

In the famines which have at times overtaken Hindostan, the Nerbudda country has sent corn to feed famishing millions. Since the last famine of 1860 61 in Hindostan, and the scarcity in parts of the Deccan and Malwa during the past two years, the Nerbudda grain has established its place firmer than ever in the foreign markets. During the year 1862 63, the Trade Statistics show an exportation of grain from that quarter of 618,000 maunds or 22,623 tons. Included in this, however, are imports of grain from the East which have passed through the Nerbudda district.

Export of grain from the Nerbudda country.

9. But, as regards the Nagpore country, I stated in 1862, on the authority of the Native Merchants, and confirmed by the best local information that—

"Nagpore, though essentially a wheat producing district, has "sent none of its cereal produce away." That very season, however, exportation commenced to the Westwards, and has since been progressing fast. The principal customers have been the Berar Districts, the Western (Bombay) Deccan, and the Nizam's country. The Trade Statistics show that, during 1863-64, 98,028 maunds or 3,589 tons of grain have been sent across our Western Frontiers on the Wurdah River.

From the Nagpore country.

10. On the other hand, Nagpore has always imported, and continues to import, large quantities of grain from the Eastern or Chutteesgurh Districts. This year the importation of grain to Nagpore, from the Eastwards, has amounted to 870,000 maunds or 31,843 tons. The process now going on is indeed simply this:—Chutteesgurh in the East sends grain to Nagpore, while Nagpore again sends grain to the Deccan in the West. The large urban population of Nagpore and its neighbourhood literally stretches out its hands to Chutteesgurh for food. Last Spring the distress was severe. The expected convoys from Chutteesgurh failed to arrive. The sad cause of the failure was soon discovered. The grain carriers had been stricken with pestilence. The long strings of laden carts, literally miles in length, were wending their way over the wild roads, and encamping in crowds at the stages in the wilderness. There Cholera seized them when they halted, and pursued them when they marched. In

Grain from Chutteesgurh.

some places, the road sides were strewn with corpses, and the road-ways blocked up with carts whose owners had either perished suddenly or fled in terror. After a time, the destroying influence abated; and grain again began to pour into the bazars and markets. The poorer classes bore their distress, on the whole, with patience. There was indeed an attempt at riot in the great Market at Kamptee, which was however promptly repressed. At Nagpore itself the people scarcely raised a murmur, which is perhaps remarkable, considering the clamour they used occasionally to raise two or three years ago, when the dearness first began.

The grain carriers seized with Cholera.

11. The fact is, however, that the various Public Works in and about Nagpore have supplied money to the laboring classes wherewith to buy food. Thousands have found employment on the Railway, on the Roads, on the Buildings, on the Tanks, and other Municipal improvements. Without this succour, no doubt, the distress would not have been kept within bearable bounds. Of late so abundant has employment been, that labor for any important purpose is procurable with difficulty. But though the poor are well employed, still they are not well off. Though wages have risen of course, still the rise has hardly been proportionate to the increased prices of all necessaries. The lower classes are certainly ill fed. And the physical depression appears either to invite, or else to aggravate and prolong, the attacks of Cholera. Though the epidemic has, for the most part, spared the city itself, it has raged with more or less force all over the interior of the district. It has especially attacked large gangs of workmen, wheresoever congregated. The operations, both on the Railway and on the main-roads, have during the year been seriously impeded by this cause. The distressing effect of these visitations should be seen, in order to be imagined. It sometimes drives the people to despair. If they stay at home, they starve under the action of famine prices. If they go forth to earn wages by working under the Public Departments, they are stricken with Cholera. If the panic stricken gangs are dissipated in flight, they are generally refused shelter in the neighbouring villages for fear of spreading the pestilence.

The Poor employed on Public Works.

Cholera among the gangs of workmen.

12. But in places like Nagpore, there are classes of non-laboring poor, ashamed to beg, too proud to dig, whose scanty means cannot

bear up against the high prices. These people have wisely emigrated in hundreds to cheaper localities in the Eastern Districts. It is roughly calculated that, in this way, five thousand persons have, during the year, left Nagpore for Chutteesgurh.

Emigration from the City of Nagpore.

13. It is evident, however, that this increased exportation of grain, these rising prices of agricultural produce generally, this spread of Cotton cultivation, and the trebled and quardrupled prices paid on the spot for that staple, must bring wealth to the landholders and to the cultivating classes. Much of the wealth thus arising doubtless accrues to traders, middlemen, and the like. Still, much of it is really enjoyed by the agricultural classes. And this share again is practically well distributed between the landlord and the ryot. If there be any difference at all, it is in favor of the Ryot. While, on the one hand, he receives much more than he used to receive for his Cotton, his grain, and other produce, yet, his rent, if raised at all, is not raised proportionately. Previously there was too much fixity in rent, and there was great difficulty in raising it. This is a defect which is now being remedied. But the fact remains, that while the Ryot's income has increased, his rent has not generally been raised. It may be safely said that the benefit of the increased value of Cotton, grain, and other produce has really reached the Ryot. He is much more independent, and much less indebted to money lenders than he was. The landlords, too, though their rent-rolls have not been swollen, as might have been expected, have still benefitted. For most of them have home-stead farms under their own culture, the produce of which has brought them enlarged income. Many unthrifty landlords have in this way been enabled to clear off their debts.

Increase of agricultural wealth.

Prosperity reaching the Ryot.

14. To this prosperity, however, there are some drawbacks. For the prices of some things which agriculturists must purchase have risen enormously. Cattle for yoke or draught, which are the main prop of agriculture, have become extraordinarily scarce and dear. There has been murrain, no doubt, last year; and in this, perhaps, some people may discern the cause. But in all years this plague has been present. And the best informed persons believe that there is no actual falling off in the cattle, and that

Rise in the price of cattle.

the real cause is simply this, that the cattle are absorbed chiefly by the demands for carriage for the increasing trade, and partly by the public works. The cattle are occupied in transporting the produce of the country to great distances. The local result here is, that a pair of bullocks which two or three years ago would not have fetched fifty rupees, might now fetch one hundred and fifty, or even two hundred. No doubt the hill pasturage affords natural grazing farms. There are classes of men engaged in rearing cattle. Herds of cattle are brought to the periodical fairs. Thus, if this demand continues, the supply will be stimulated. But at present the dearness is felt by the agriculturists.

Enhanced cost of Clothing.

15. Again, the demand of Cotton in foreign markets causes all the Cotton to leave the country and very little to be left at home. The prices of Cotton at all the local markets of the Nagpore country are extremely high. The manufacturers of the coarse Cotton cloths have left their looms in the villages, and gone forth to seek more lucrative employment. Among others one consequence is this, that the agriculturist has to pay much more for his clothes now than formerly.

16. But notwithstanding these and other similar drawbacks, the agriculturists have been, and are, making money fast. Still, the question arises, is this agricultural prosperity fructifying as it ought? is this exportation of raw produce giving birth to a return Trade; to an interchange of commodities; to new wants which promote civilization? I fear *not*, as yet.

Balance of Trade.

17. Both in Nagpore and Chutteesgurh, the imports have always been small, out of all proportion as compared with the exports. In general terms, the people export large quantities of raw produce,—Cotton, oilseeds, grain, hides, and the like. They import salt, and a small quantity of European goods and miscellaneous articles. But the balance is vastly against the imports. This balance is redressed, and the difference made up by bullion remittances and cash payments. Last year this subject attracted attention, and I shall quote the evidence of the largest of the Native traders, which, too, is corroborated by the district authorities. In answer to the question, as to what the people do with the balance, he deposed:

Unproductive hoarding of cash and bullion.

"They receive cash, chiefly in Nagpore rupees, and this they hoard.

"Sometimes the rupees are turned into silver ornaments, and some-
"times they are buried in the ground. It is within my knowledge,
"having constant transactions with these people, that for the last two
"or three years they have been receiving high prices, they have been
"accumulating the hard rupees. There are thousands of farmers or
"cultivators who must have hoarded money of late."

18. This evidence related to Chtteesgurh. Precisely the same process is known to be going on in the Nagpore and Wurdah districts Recently, the country gold-smiths there told the District Officer that they could not, with all their labor and appliances, turn the cash into ornaments quick enough, so great was the demand.

Importation of English piece goods.

19. As the country Cotton manufactures have so much declined, it might have been thought that the importation of English piece goods would have greatly increased. But in fact there has not been any such proportionate increase. Though they cannot get new country made clothes, yet the people have not learnt to use the English made goods. In general terms it may be said, that the population is wearing out its old clothes.

Future influence of Improvement.

20. These circumstances are indeed to be regretted, though doubtless they are not peculiar to these Provinces. The people will only learn new wants and new luxuries by degrees; as education and intelligence spread; as rights in property are strengthened and developed; as facilities for intercourse and communication are augmented. To all this, roads and canals,—and rivers (such as the Godavery and Mahanuddy) made navigable,—will duly conduce. But among the instruments for effecting such changes, none will be more potent than the Railway, to the opening of which all classes are looking forward with so much expectancy.

Effect of Administrative measures.

21. In the coming Chapters of this Report, it will be seen how far justice is expedited, crime repressed, the revenue adjusted, education commenced, the foundation of improvement laid. But of all measures now being conducted, though others may be more plainly palpable, yet none will have such an effect on the temper and condition of the majority of the people as the settlement of the Land Revenue.

Wherever these Settlement operations have extended, their effect has been perceptible in the increased thrift, industry, and self-respect of the people: in their forwardness for improvement; in their interest in education and other means of civilization.

General conduct of the people.

22. On the whole, I am able to report well of the conduct of the people at large. Though suspicious and short-sighted, they are contented in disposition, and respectful to the Law. The way in which the lower classes have abstained from cutting the prohibited kinds of trees, from the illicit manufacture of spirits, in the wilder tracts, affords proof of their general deference to authority. The upper classes too are fairly imbued with public spirit, and not insensible to the duties of citizenship. They are generally willing to act as Honorary Magistrates, to form school Committees, to supervise municipal improvements. Many of them regard the performance of such business as an honorable distinction.

Redistribution of districts to form the Nerbudda Commissionership.

23. The only territorial change made during the year is the redistribution of the Northern and Central Districts of these Provinces into Commissionerships. The Saugor Commissionership has been abolished and incorporated with that of Jubbulpore, and a new Commissionership has been formed out of the districts of the Nerbudda valley. It is believed that administrative efficiency and convenience will be thereby promoted. The two Commissionerships will in future stand thus:—

	Districts.
Jubbulpore Commissionership.	Jubbulpore, Dumoh. Saugor. Mundla. Seonee.
Nerbudda Commissionership. ...	Hoshungabad. Nursingpore. Chindwara. Baitool. Nimar.

The Nagpore and Chutteesgurh Commissionerships, and their respective districts, remain as they were.

Transfer of Nimar to the Central Provinces.

24. The District of Nimar, heretofore under the control of the Governor General's Agent at Indore, having been transferred to the Administration of the Central Provinces from the 1st May 1864, it will be well that I should here give a brief account of that Territory.

Tour in Nimar.

25. Immediately on the District being incorporated with these Provinces, I marched through its length and breadth: I entered Nimar at its Eastern extremity, where it joins the Hoshungabad District. Thence, proceeding south-westwards, I passed through the finest part of Nimar, on to the foot of the Sautpoora Range. Then entering the Hill country of the Range, I passed by Asseergurh and Boorhanpoor, and through the Valley of the Taptee and the Poorna Rivers, on to Edulebad, on the Frontier of Candeish. From Edulebad, I retraced my steps northwards, again traversing the heart of Nimar, on to the banks of the Nerbudda at Burwye. Crossing that River I travelled along the north bank by Mundlesur and Muhesur. Returning by Burwye, I marched eastwards through the wild tracts in the Valley of the Nerbudda, till I again met the Hoshungabad boundary. During these marches I had much opportunity of seeing the people of all classes.

26. I shall now attempt a brief Sketch of the Nimar District as it appears at the present day. The Province of Nimar belongs in part to the Maharajah Holkar: and in part to the British Government. That portion which is foreign is under the political supervision of the Governor General's Agent at Indore. That portion which is British has, as already stated, been transferred to the Central Provinces. My concern then is only with the British portion: though possibly the general description which I am about to give, may be more or less applicable to the whole Province.

Name of Nimar.

27. The name Nimar, or as it is written in books Nimaur, must on no account be confounded with Nimawar. Nimar is a Province: while Nimawar is a small Town on the north bank of the Nerbudda, and is not in Nimar at all. Nimawar is a place of some sanctity, deriving its name from being supposed to be the midway point in the course of the Nerbudda. For the name Nimar there is no ascertainable origin.

28. In 1824 Nimar was described by Sir J. Malcolm thus:—*

"The Province of Nimar is that part of the Valley of the Ner-budda which lies between Hindia east, and Kotra west, and between "the Vindhya Range north, and the Sautpoora Ranges south. Its "length is about 130 miles, and its breadth in the centre may be "reckoned at seventy. The greater part of Nimar is a fertile undulating "plain, once perfectly open, flourishing, and highly cultivated; but of "late years overgrown with low jungle or brushwood. The western "portion on both sides the Nerbudda is generally level and cultivated, but "the eastern portion is one mass or cluster of "low Hills, almost entirely desolate excepting "in the immediate borders of the River. From the desertion or "destruction of its population, little cultivation exists, and jungle has, for "the most part, taken its place."

Malcolm's description of Nimar.

29. Though Nimar had previously been remarkable for change, even amidst the universal changefulness of Central India, still the above description, given in 1824, holds good, in many respects, to the present day. But I will amplify a few leading details, so as to present an idea of the country, as it appears at this time.

30. My first Administration Report (1861-62) showed how the Nerbudda, for about two hundred miles of its course, flows through a Valley of unbroken richness and cultivation bounded on the north by the Vindhya Mountains, and on the south by the Sautpoora Range. This fine tract extends to a point about eighty miles west of Hoshung-abad, in fact to near the border of Nimar. But just before it enters Nimar, the Nerbudda becomes closed in by low wooded Hills. Thence it flows beneath the spurs of the Vindhyas, clothed with those deep forests where the last and worst of the Pindarry Chiefs was hunted to death. Then falling into a rocky region rushes over the cascades near Poonassa; and thereafter runs deep and silent beneath the over-shadowing cliffs, and the stately Temples and Palaces of the sacred Island of Oonkar-Mandatta; till it reaches Burwye, famous for Iron Ore. The River has now for seventy miles been traversing a miserable, though perhaps, interesting region. But past Burwye the Vindhyas receding leave a fine submontane tract: and once more both banks become rich with cultivation. The northern limit of the Valley is formed by those promontories of the Vindhyas

Valley of the Nerbudda.

* Malcolm's Central India, Vol. I., page 31.

where once stood Mandoo, that great Mahomedan Capital which dominated over the surrounding territories. Then the Nerbudda, after passing Mundlaisur, and washing the flights of steps, and the terraces of Muhesur (the residence of the Holkar Sovereigns), once more enters the Hills, till it becomes more and more enclosed by the opposing and converging Ranges of the Vindhyas and Sautpooras, and escapes through the narrow passage called the "Deer's Leap" before it finally emerges into the Coast District.

Centre of Nimar.

31. South of the Nerbudda the eastern part of the Valley towards Hoshungabad, though naturally rich in some parts, and occasionally bearing marks of perished wealth and greatness, is still desolate and wild. It was once peopled to some extent by civilized races; but now is sparsely occupied by primitive Hill Tribes. Nearer the base of the Sautpoora Range, however, the country forms itself into a large natural basin of fertile land, highly cultivated, inhabited by an industrious and manly peasantry, studded with towns and villages, and traversed by the high road from Bombay to Agra, and by the future Railway from Calcutta to Bombay. This is the Garden of Nimar. The principal places are Khundwa (a town of some antiquity) and the rising town of Pundhana.

Valley of the Taptee.

32. South of this again the Nimar District comprises the Sautpoora Range. From my Administration Report of 1861-62 it will have been seen that this Range comprises a mountainous region about a hundred miles broad, extending tolerably straight from east to west. In the midst of this tract there rises the Taptee. This river, following the direction of the Range of Mountains, forces a way through the midst, rending them in twain, and dividing the northern face of the Range from the southern. The River at first passes through narrow gorges; these gradually widen into Valleys. But at first these Valleys, though rich in soil, are choked by rank jungle. These parts have an evil repute, and are regarded with dread, almost amounting to superstition. The people told me that the air is thick with noxious exhalations; that the ground is so impregnated with the putrefaction of decayed vegetation, that the water proves deadly to those who drink it. But those Valleys as they open out improve rapidly; until near the City of Booranpoor there is a fine open tract enclosed between the Northern and Southern faces of the Sautpooras and watered by the Taptee.

33. The Northern face of the Range, which overlooks the Garden of Nimar near Khundwa as above described, is crowned by the celebrated Hill Fortress of Asseergurh. This place is approached by the Kattee Ghatee Pass, one of the important points on the road between Candeish and Malwa. The Fortress, originally founded by a Shepherd Chief for the protection of his flocks and herds, has been held in strength by every successive conqueror, Hindoo, Mahomedan, Mahratta, British: for it dominates over all Nimar, and commands one of the main lines of communication through the Peninsula. From Asseergurh, proceeding southwards, the rich plain of the Taptee comes into view, finely marked by the long dark lines which denote the far-stretching groves of Mango trees. Boorhanpoor is situate near the foot of the Asseergurh Hills, on the bluff banks of the Taptee. On the opposite bank, facing Boorhanpoor, is Zeinabad, a town which gives its name to the surrounding tract. South of Boorhanpoor the rich plain extends for some twenty miles, till it is bounded by the Hills which form the Southern face of the Range. These Hills gradually slope down towards the Poorna River, which separates Nimar from Berar and from Candeish, and joins the Taptee a short distance below Boorhanpoor.

Asseergurh.

Boorhanpoor.

34. The position of Nimar is particularly centrical. It is situate between the great territorial and geographical divisions of Malwa on the one hand, and Candeish and the Deccan on the other. It has always been border land between great Kingdoms. For purposes of war, or politics, or trade, main through-routes of communication have always traversed it. During the last century, it was literally trodden down and stamped out by inroads innumerable. Under British rule it has formed that portion of the Bengal Presidency which touches that of Bombay.

Centrical position of Nimar.

35. The former history of Nimar is as varied as that of any part of India. Originally, there must have been Hindoo Rulers and Priests in power here. But of these all records have perished; save the scanty, but impressive traces to be recognized in the ruins, the images, the carvings, found frequently in spots now the most desolate, or extracted from caves, or exhumed from the earth. These records, which cannot lie, attest an era of art and civilization. The Hindoos, however, must have succumbed many centuries ago to the

History of Nimar.

The Hindoo period.

Mahomedan invaders. The subjugation of the neighbouring Gond Chiefs is within the scope of authentic history.

36. Among the most important Sovereignties thus established by the Mahomedans was that of Mandoo. It does not fall within the province of this Report to describe the ruins of that once splendid Capital, which dominated, not only over Malwa above the Vindhyas, but also over all the Nimar and Hoshungabad sections of the Nerbudda Valley. From the terrace of Mandoo, the eye ranges over the whole of the undulating plains of Nimar, threaded by the silver line of the distant Nerbudda, and bounded on the opposite side by the Sautpoora Hills.

The Kingdom of Mandoo.

37. But while the northern and central part of Nimar was under the dominion of the Mahomedans, the southern portion, within the Sautpoora range, was under the patriarchal rule of the Shepherd Chief, who dwelt on the summit of the Asseer Hill. It afterwards fell under the sway of the Mahomedan Princes of Candeish. The name of the Shepherd, Assa Aheer, has been handed down by common fame as the founder of this Fortress. I shall extract the following account of him, his rise, and fall from Brigg's Translation of the Mahomedan historian Ferishta.*

Origin of Asseergurh.

"On the summit of a high Hill, there lived a Herdsman, who "was in reality one of the principal land-holders in the country. "His ancestors had, some seven hundred years previously, built a wall "round the Hill of Asseer, in order to protect their cattle from the rob- "bers who infested the Mountains. Assa succeeded to his father's proper- "ty. Being a thrifty person, his herds increased to the number of 5,000 "buffaloes. 5,000 cows, 20,000 sheep, and 1,000 brood mares. He had "also 2,000 retainers. The farmers of the neighbouring countries, when- "ever they were in distress, always found relief in applying to Assa "Aheer, or 'the Herdsman,' for so he continued to be called despite his "wealth and power. It was for the sake of finding employment for "the poor that he had the old walls of Asseer levelled, and a Fortress "built of masonry. This work went by the name of the Fort of Assa "Aheer, and was afterwards called Asseer."

38. Shortly afterwards, however, Assa entered into relations with Mullik Nusseer Furokhee, the Mahomedan Chief of the neighbouring

* Vol. IV., page 286.

Province of Candeish. This Mullik Nusseer, under pretence of sheltering the ladies of his family under the hospitable protection of Asseergurh, treacherously possessed himself of the Fortress, and put Assa and his people to the sword. Ferishta, however, discerns the judgment of Providence upon the heirs of this Mahomedan Prince, for he relates that—

"The property of Assa was never enjoyed by the Furokhee "family, and all the money and jewels taken from Assa on this occasion "fell into the hands of Akbar the Great, when he took the Fortress of "Asseer two centuries afterwards.

39. Mullik Nusseer, becoming master of Asseer, employed himself, according to Ferishta, in strengthening its fortifications. The mixture of Hindoo and Mahomedan structures in this Fort is indeed observable by the visitor to this day. Mullik Nusseer then summons Zeincoddeen, the family Priest, at whose request he builds first Zeinabad on the left bank of the Taptee, calling it after the Priest's name, and then Boorhanpoor on the opposite bank, calling it after Boorhandaddeen, another Saint and a friend of Zeinooddeen. The Furokhee Chiefs embellished Boorhanpoor with many public works. They erected mosques of a severe but grand style of architecture; they supplied the City with water by means of fine aqueducts; they constructed weirs and artificial cascades and masonry channels.

The Furokhee Kings of Boorhanpoor.

40. Such are the apparently authentic particulars of the founding of Asseergurh and Boorhanpoor, gathered by Ferishta on his visit to these places more than 250 years ago.

41. Towards the close of his victorious reign, Akbar the Great subdued the Kingdoms both of Mandoo and Boorhanpoor, having taken Asseergurh by siege; and thus the whole of Nimar was incorporated in the Mogul Empire. It belonged to the "Soobah" or Province of Malwa.* It was then formed into a Division or "Sircar," of which the Head Quarters were fixed at Beejagurh, a Fortress in the Sautpoora Hills. Thus it remained until the Mahratta power rose upon the ruins of the Mogul Empire. Both Asseergurh and Boorhanpoor played a distinguished

Nimar subdued by the Mogul Emperors.

* See Gladwin's Ayeen Akberee, Vol. I.,

part in the wars of the Mogul Empire. Boorhanpoor especially was the scene of encampments,* of seiges, of sackings, of battles, in the reign of the Emperor Aurungzebe and his successors.

42. It is probable that, during the Mahomedan period, Nimar reached the highest degree of prosperity it has ever known : a prosperity much exceeding that which it enjoys now, even after forty years of British rule succeeding the general pacification of 1818. Though the Territory was diversified by hills, rocks and forests in many directions, still the plains and valleys were doubtless well cultivated. There was a Government which, though of foreign extraction, was yet strong and considerate. The towns were flourishing; there was a well-to-do non-agricultural population; there were large Military and other Establishments. Emperors, Governors and Armies passed this way. There were good markets for agricultural produce; there were Nobles and Chiefs with their retinues, to give encouragement to trade. The road stages were thronged with travellers to and fro between the great capitals of Malwa to the north, and the Deccan to the south. The villages had strong and industrious communities; there was much artificial irrigation. In short, the face of the country was sprinkled over with public buildings or works of improvement; with caravan-serais, with rest-houses and wells, with aqueducts, with tanks and reservoirs. I have myself seen or heard of these in all directions. In addition to the evidence regarding the former condition of Nimar, which may be gathered from historical authorities, I may cite the result of enquiries in 1846, by Captain French, an Officer who took the greatest interest in the District. He writes :—

Prosperity of Nimar during the Mahomedan period.

" There is no doubt in the estimation of the natives of Nimar " that, previously to the inroads of the Mahrattas and the Pindarrees, " this district was rich and flourishing, yielding four times and more " than the present revenue to the then Rulers."

Again he writes :—" That Nimar was once a fine Province under the Houses of Mandoo and Delhi, we have historic proof; even were the weirs and tanks none." After examining these works, Captain French, justly describes them as " the grand works constructed by the Native Rulers". He speaks of the "wisdom of the Mahomedan Rulers which

* Vide Grant Duff's History of the Mahrattas, Vol. I., page 320.

" caused these works for the insurance of the revenue and welfare of " the subject." This favorable description held good perhaps to nearly the year 1700.

43. We shall now see to what a stage of misery these fair regions were brought by revolutions and by internicine dissensions among Chiefs between the years 1700 and 1817.

The Mahratta period.

44. During the eighteenth Century Nimar fell into the hands of the Mahratta Chiefs Holkar and Scindhia. Malcolm relates that in 1732 Mulhar Rao (the founder of the House of Holkar) obtained possession of several places in Nimar, of which Muhesur was the principal. Thereafter Mulhar Rao acquired most of those tracts which lay near the Nerbudda, and also the central portion of Nimar. The southern portion of Nimar, including Boorhanpoor and Asseergurh, fell into the hands of Madhajee Scindiah, and his successor Doultut Rao.

Mulkar Rao Holhar.

Madhajee Scindiah.

45. Although the Mahrattas did not in the first instance desire to subvert the institutions of the Province, or to inflict any unnecessary injury on the people; yet their system of conquest inevitably tended to impoverish the conquered. In reference to Madhajee Scindiah's first occupation of this very part of the country, Malcolm remarks :—" It was a circle of " plunder; as one country was exhausted, the army had to march, with " their numbers increased by those whose condition their success had " made desperate, to ravage another. Then the Bheels from their " mountains, and the Rajhpoots from their fortified villages, retorted on the " Mahrattas, by laying waste their lands, the evils they had suffered. It is true that afterwards Madhajee organized a Regular Force to maintain public order, and showed some disposition to establish a regular Government. It is also true that Mulhar Rao governed his territories considerately, and that for many years most parts of Nimar enjoyed the benefits and the repose which resulted in the establishment, for a time, of good government by Ahulya Baee, the well known Princess of the House of Holkar. The tradition of her public virtues has survived, and is still in the mouths of all well-informed natives of Nimar. But after her, the dissensions between Scindiah and Holkar plunged this part of the country into trouble. It would be tedious to enumerate the instances* in which

Ahulya Baee.

* Vide Malcolm's Central India, Vol. I., pages 204, 225, 233.

Juswunt Rao Holkar ravaged and laid waste the territories of Scindiah in this quarter. For some years Juswunt Rao (whose fierce deeds and awful end are so well known to history), proved himself the scourge of Nimar.* These oppressions were continued after the death of Juswunt Rao, under the rule of Toolsae Baee.

Juswunt Rao Holkar.

46. In the injuries inflicted on Nimar during the Mahratta period, the Executive Agents were frequently the Pindarrees. As the Mahrattas tottered towards their fall, the Pindarrees became bolder and stronger. These hordes of Pindarry robbers did indeed carry their depredations to distant parts of India in all directions. But the worst of all their leaders, Cheetoo Khan, established himself in the Nimar country, that is in the tract between the north bank of the Nerbudda and the base of the Vindhya mountains. There he had his standard, his camp, his lands, and his last retreat in extemity. Though it cannot be said that they had any home, yet during the worst period of their career they had their head quarters in the neighbourhood. In 1812, Sir R. Jenkins, reporting to the British Government the general strength of the Pindarrees, describes them to be then known as belonging to two parties, the Holkar Shahee and the Scindiah Shahee, that is, the parties infesting the territories of Holkar and Scindiah respectively. On the whole, it may said, that at various times, Nimar was rifled and ransacked from end to end by these people; and that of all the Provinces in different parts of India which they devastated, none suffered more permanent injury at their hands than Nimar.

The Pindarrees.

47. The Pindarrees are still freshly remembered in Nimar. Village headmen have told me how their fathers would go out to meet the Pindarry bands; would pay down sums, in order that the village might be spared from plunder; or would give hostages as security for satisfaction of demands. Others again speak of that period as the Great Famine. They are asked, what Famine was that? Was there drought, or pestilence, or murrain? They will reply, "Not at all. The rains were fair as usual; "neither men nor cattle were sick. But the Pindarrees came and "caused the Famine; they drove off our cattle in herds; they set fire

Their ravages.

* Vide Grant Duff's History of the Mahrattas, Vol. III., pages 194, 195.

" to our thatched villages, when we resisted; they fed their horses on " our green crops; they carried off our stores of grain, and collected " them in granaries of their own, for feeding their encamped Forces. " If we refused to show our stores of grain, they tortured us. At last " our store-houses were empty. We had no cattle wherewith to till " the soil, and to raise fresh crops. The price of grain rose to " famine-rates, higher than those of the worst period of scarcity." Such is the account which I have heard Nimar people give of the Pindarrees. The distress of the people was accompanied by every sort of demoralization. Hundreds, perhaps thousands of of men, originally respectable, were driven by want to join the robber forces, and to inflict upon their neighbours the same evils, which they had themselves suffered. There is an aged man now living at Poonassa, who served under Cheetoo's banner, and well remembers that Chief. This man told me that originally he was a messenger, and possessed some goods of his own. But having been robbed of every thing by the Pindarrees, he joined his oppressors in order to earn some subsistence by plundering others, and that most of his friends did the same.

Cheetoo Pindarry.

48. But the final day of retribution came for the Pindarrees, when the detachments of British Troops entered Nimar from all directions in 1817, and converged on the last retreats of Cheetoo. It was in the Eirwa forests, on the northern boundary of Nimar, that Cheetoo met that tragic fate, so well known to History. It was there that alone, without even one follower, he was tracked by the marks of his horse's hoofs; it was there, his pursuers found his mangled remains in the den of a Tiger.

Condition of Nimar in 1817.

49. After the extirpation of the Pindarrees in 1816, Nimar had rest. By that time, however, it must have become nearly exhausted. The following passages bearing on Nimar may be extracted from Malcolm's description of Central India in 1817—(Vol. II) :—

" Near the Nerbudda, hundreds of villages might be seen roof-" less." * * * * * *

" Some parts were usurped by wild beasts, and these literally fought " with the returning inhabitants for their fields."

* * * * *

"Many districts might be mentioned that are literally recovered "from a complete waste."

Manpoor had not paid revenue for sixty years, and in 1817 had not one inhabitant. Two tracts, once flourishing and since restored, Kannapore and Burriah (one of which now has a first-rate reservoir for irrigation), were in 1817 quite desolate; there being one inhabited village in Kannapore, and none at all in Burriah. Kusrawud, another once flourishing tract, was more than half depopulated. In the south of Nimar, Malcolm states, that large villages were reduced to four or five families. After the reduction of the Pindarrees, plunderers of the Gond and Bheel Tribes continued their depredations for some time.* Colonel Smith, the first British Officer, who took charge of Nimar in 1818, describes it as: "One continued "scene of desolation and ruin; all traces of former cultivation has ceased "to be perceptible." Many years afterwards, Captain French, after "much enquiry, wrote in 1846:—"Nothing could be more lamentable "than the condition of Nimar at the conclusion of the Maharatta "and Pindarry wars. It had been ravaged in all directions, and we "found it nearly a depopulated desert."

Condition of Poonassa.

50. At Poonassa, near the Nerbudda, the descendants of the Chiefs of that place recently explained to me, how the whole tract was desolate in 1817, and how, notwithstanding the efforts of the British Government, it has not been restored even to this day. Yet the ruins and remains about the place attest its former importance. The people say, that its revenues were once worth a hundred thousand rupees a year. At the present time, even after partial restoration, they do not equal one-tenth of that amount. The Beejagurh Sircar or Division, already mentioned as comprising much of Nimar, known by records to have yielded one and a half lakhs of rupees under the Mahomedans, did not at this period, 1817, yield half a lakh.

51. I may conclude this Sketch of the misery of Nimar at that period, by quoting the emphatic words of Malcolm:—

"Never was the reign of anarchy and terror more complete "than in 1817."

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* Vide Sir R. Hamilton's Note on Nimar.

52. Since then, all Nimar has enjoyed quiet: and a large part of it has been under British Administration for about forty years. Doubtless, the territory has greatly revived and improved. But I have been careful to show what its condition really was at that time, because to this day the prevailng idea conveyed by the aspect of the country is that of a past prosperity greater than anything to be seen now. Yet the District has considerable advantages, and a good commercial situation; and for many years past efforts have been made for its improvement, many of which have been attended with a fair measure of success. The fact apparently is, that in tracts like these, where the growth of both forest and underwood are dense and rapid, the re-occupation of lands, once thoroughly desolated, is difficult. Supposing that cultivators can be obtained, still the climate is often found to have been spoilt by the malaria of the encroaching jungle, and the water to be worse still. Again, when settlers are established, they have a weary contest with the invading jungle, and with the wild animals.

Present aspect of Nimar.

53. The tracts now forming the British District of Nimar have come under British Administration at different times. Those lying on the banks of the Nerbudda became British Territory in 1818. In 1823-24, the greater part of Scindiah's Nimar came under British management; though still called Scindiah's Nimar. This included Khundwa, the Capital of Nimar, and the country below Asseergurh to the banks of the Taptee. But the city of Boorhanpoor and the tract of Zeinabad, across the Taptee, remained with Scindiah. Asseergurh surrendered in 1819 to General Doveton. As late as 1851, a medal* was given to the survivors of those who took part in the seige. Recently, in 1860-61, the Sovereignty of the British Government in Scindiah's Nimar (heretofore under British management) was confirmed, and Boorhanpoor and Zeinabad were likewise ceded to the British Government. These transactions arose out of various territorial arrangements with the Mahrajah Scindiah.

Portions of Nimar come under British rule.

54. A portion of Nimar, now called Kurgond, belongs to the Maharajah Holkar. This lies on the extreme west. There is also one tract, Sunawud, belonging to His Highness which is overlapped on both

* Thornton's *Gazetteer*.

sides by British Nimar. Outlying portions of British Nimar, again, are surrounded by His Highness' territory. It may be possible hereafter, by exchange of territory, to secure a more compact boundary.

Statistics of British Nimar.

55. The District of British Nimar, as now constituted, has an area of 3,900 square miles, a population of 200,000 souls, and a revenue of 3¼ lakhs or £32,878 per annum, including Local Funds. Its Local and Civil expenditure, including Public Works, amounts to Rs. 1,77,393* or £17,740 per annum, which leaves a surplus of Rs. 1,50,387.

* Civil Establishments..... 90,204
Police..... 55,788
Public Works.... 31,401

The only troops cantoned within the district is the Garrison of Asseergurh (Bombay Troops), consisting of two Companies of European Infantry, and two Companies of Native Infantry. The population consists chiefly of Koonbees, Rajpoots, Gonds and Bheels. There is of course a sprinkling of Brahmins and of Mahomedans. The productions embrace all those common to India,—sugar, cotton, opium, cereals, oil-seeds. The breed of cattle is good, and pasturage is abundant. The forests on the Nerbudda comprise the Teak, the Saj, and the Unjun trees. The main line of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway from Bombay to Jubbulpore traverses Nimar from end to end, entering it from the Bombay direction at Boorhanpoor, passing underneath Asseergurh, and then by Khundwa, the new Civil head quarters, on towards Hoshungabad. The section of the Railway in Nimar is 86 miles in length. A Branch Railway from some point near Khundwa to Indore, to take up all the traffic from Malwa, has been projected.

56. The fiscal and general History of Nimar under British Administration for many years (up to 1855) is to be found in a series of papers published by the Government of North-Western Provinces, and entitled "Reports on the Province of Nimar."

First introduction of British rule after 1817.

57. On the first introduction of British rule, cautious measures for the revival of prosperity were adopted. The extreme depression of the revenue has already been mentioned. But the revenue rapidly recovered itself. In the first year of British rule, 1818, the revenue in the British tracts stood at only Rs. 17,581. By 1824, it had risen to Rs. 86,360. The tracts taken over from Scindiah yielded, in 1823-24, only Rs. 64,225. By the year 1828-29 they were yielding Rs. 1,61,224. The long protracted troubles had

disturbed all landed tenures. The dues of the petty agricultural Chiefs (Mundloees) were respected; and these men, or their descendants, are still maintaining their position. Similar considerations were shown to the Putels or village headmen. The villages were leased out generally to the Putels, on the payment of a fixed revenue, but sometimes to strangers. In some tracts, the revenue authorities assumed the management of the villages, and dealt direct with the cultivators. The actual property in land was, however, held to be inherent in the State. Attempts were made in those days to measure the lands, but the people were timid and suspicious of the intentions of Government (as was perhaps not unnatural after their long oppressions), and this operation was abandoned. But though at the outset the restoration of prosperity was rapid, yet there does not seem to have been any progressive advance beyond a certain point. In some respects, the territory seems somewhat to have retrograded after the year 1830. Drought and pestilence visited the district in 1833-34, and again in 1844-45. In 1844-45 the revenue had fallen to Rs. 48,013 for British Nimar, and to Rs. 109,884 for the Pergunnahs taken over from Scindiah. Many families, who, on the first re-establishment of peace, flocked to Nimar as the safest place from neighbouring territories, returned to their homes as the pacification became general everywhere. The British assessments in Nimar, though doubtless intended to be liberal, appear to have been afterwards felt by the people as too high. The leaseholders at times were unwilling to renew their leases, and frequently cultivators threw up their lands. In 1842 Sir C. Wade (then Resident at Indore) declared that Nimar had not improved as it ought: and in 1845, the Court of Directors drew attention to the depressed state of the country. Up to 1845, no special steps seem to have been taken to improve the district, either by increasing the means of irrigation, or by opening out the roads.

Administration up to 1845.

58. But since 1845 up to the present time, persevering and consistent efforts have been made by the British Authorities to improve Nimar in every way, both materially and morally. From all I have seen, heard and read, I infer that few districts in India have had a greater amount of thought, care and trouble devoted to them by British Officers, than Nimar has for the last fifteen or twenty years. The district has had a succession of zealous and active Officers, who, though called Political Agents, did really perform all the Civil duties. Sir R. Hamilton and his successors in the Indore Residency took great interest in the charge.

Administration since 1845.

And for several years the Civil Administration had the benefit of being supervised by the Government of the North-Western Provinces.

59. In 1847, the then Lieutenant Governor of the North-Western Provinces, Mr. Thomason, visited Mundlaisur (then the Civil head quarters of Nimar), and in June of that year issued instructions which constitute the charter of the creation of landed property, and of the limitation of the Government demand in that district. The object of Government was declared to be, "by reducing the assessment, to create a valuable pro-"perty in the land, and to render the acquisition of such property a "desirable object to the Capitalist, as well as to the mere Agriculturist." Such property, having been created, "was to be declared heritable and "transferrable at the will of the owner." It was added that—"If the "people can once be led to see the advantages of the system, and to "apply themselves to the easy task of self-government, which it "involves, there is little doubt but that the plan will succeed, and that "property in land will become a safe and profitable mode of investing "Capital." The assessment was to be fixed for terms of 20 or 30 years. The old resident cultivators were to have proprietorship of their lands, if they claimed it. But in the absence of such, the proprietorship might be conferred on the headman (Putel).

Decision of Revenue affairs in 1847.

60. It remains that I should briefly sketch the various improvements which have been carried out since 1845; and the fruits of which were visible when I visited Nimar in May 1864.

61. The Land Revenue of the greater portion of the district has been settled for a term of 20 years. The assessment of the Land Tax appears to be moderate. It is at the rate of about one rupee to the cultivated acre on the average. The foundation of proprietary right has been laid. In some tracts, the proprietorship has been conferred on the old resident cultivators. But in many tracts, the headmen are the proprietors. The protection of tenant-right has been secured. The position of the village servants, the Accountant, the Watchman, and the like, has been maintained. There has been a demarcation of village boundaries; a rough measurement of the fields; a record of rights in detail. These Settlement papers, however, though excellent as a commencement, would not be now considered sufficiently good for a Regular Settlement. There are Field Maps generally accom-

Settlement of the Land Revenue.

panying the rough measurements. But these Maps are of a rudimentary character, and there is no Professional Revenue Survey. Considering the slender means at hand, and the small cost employed, I think that the amount accomplished is highly creditable. The right of villagers to the waste within the limits of their estates has been declared. I have seen all the agricultural Chiefs in the district; and met most of the village headmen, and many of the cultivators, assembled for the purpose, and none of them complained of the Settlement; on the contrary, they expressed themselves generally satisfied.

Works for Irrigation.

62. Many new wells have been excavated; in the cultivated tracts the old tanks have been repaired or re-constructed, and water channels opened out. Some of these, such as the Lake near Kannapore, are really fine works. Irrigation has been much augmented in all directions; and the country rendered much safer than it was, from destructive droughts.

Reclaiming of the Waste.

63. In the fertile but abandoned tracts, such as Poonassa, strenuous efforts have been made to raise up fallen towns; to re-people deserted villages; to win back rich plains from the grasp of the rank jungle, and of the wild animals. On these objects, money, intelligence, zeal and perseverance have been expended. There has been *some* success; though the measure of such success may not have been equal to the efforts which have been put forth. Still the efforts were most commendable; and much good has been effected. In other tracts, such as Peeplode, arrangements were made to civilize and educate the Gond Tribes.

Construction of Roads.

64. Public works of all kinds were constructed all over the Province. Attention was rightly given to the Main road running from Indore to Bombay. The Simrole Pass, leading from the Vindhya mountains to the Valley of the Nerbudda, was improved. The Khattee Ghattee Pass and other Passes in the Sautpoora Hills near Asseergurh, were opened to traffic. The whole line of road from the foot of the Vindhyas north of the Nerbudda, across the Sautpooras to Boorhanpoor was, more or less, made, metalled and bridged. Among the bridges, there are some really excellent structures. This road is not inferior to many of the Trunk Lines in India. It is now the Mail Line from Calcutta to Bombay, and the Mail Carts run on it. It is also the principal route for trade from Hindostan and Malwa to the Western Coast, and the traffic on it is very great. A line of road was made from Oonkar Mandatta along the Val-

ley of the Nerbudda to Mundlaisur. Various other branch roads were improved. At the River crossings, ferry-boats were provided; and boat-bridges in some cases were prepared for the traffic season. At appropriate stages, Rest-houses and wells were made for Native travellers, and Staging Bungalows for Europeans. In the Towns, the streets were opened out, the drains were made, the water channels were repaired; tanks were constructed, flights of steps were built on the banks of the Rivers. For these various works, Local Funds were raised, by tolls on the roads, which seem to have been levied without difficulty, inasmuch as all the old "Sayer" cesses and Transit duties had been abolished. Most of the work was executed by the District Officers with but little or no professional assistance. I have never yet seen any district in which so much had been done by the Civil Authorities alone, for public works, as Nimar.

Schools and Dispensaries.

65. Schools, English and Vernacular, were founded at the principal places: and also Vernacular schools in some of the villages. Several Dispensaries were established, and largely attended by the sick.

General administration.

66. The incursions of Bheels were repelled; dacoity was much checked; public order was generally preserved during the troubled period of 1857; an efficient body of Police horse has been organized; buildings for the Foot Police, along the main lines of road, were constructed; the fiscal establishments were fairly organized.

Temper and condition of the people.

67. The people generally appear to me to be peaceable and well disposed: quite contented with the administration under which they had lived: having indeed externally all those characteristics which are common with people who have been well cared for and considerately managed.

Experimental Iron Works.

68. Especial care was given to develope the iron resources of the district. The beds of the streams which feed the Nerbudda are inexhaustibly rich in iron ore. There is flux at hand. There is abundance of fuel in the endless Forests. These various resources were investigated by Colonel Jacob, the Assistant Geological Surveyor. First, Major Keatinge made experiments at Poonassa. Then an undertaking on a large scale was set on foot at Burwye on the Nerbudda. A Swedish Gentleman, of special

mining experience (Mr. Mitander) was engaged. With his assistance Major Keatinge constructed buildings of the best description, with a blast furnace, and with all the accommodation necessary for producing wrought iron. Excellent machinery was procured from England. These experiments have not yet been brought to any practical conclusion.

Services of District Officers.

69. I cannot conclude this notice of Nimar without paying my tribute of admiration to the public character and the local services of the three Officers who successively managed Nimar for many years; namely, Captain French, Captain Evans, and Major Keatinge. They were animated with the highest zeal for the improvement of the district, and they labored hard for the moral and material progress of the people. Wherever I travelled, whether in the cultivated tracts, or in the wilder parts, I saw traces of their handiwork, and signs of their good management. Of the three, Major Keatinge was in charge for the longest period, and has done the most. He will long be remembered in that district, and indeed the impress of his ability for public improvement is stamped on the face of the Territory. I am sure that the excellent example of his predecessors will be followed by Major Wood, the Officer now in charge.

70. I crave permission here to state my sense of the cordial assistance afforded me by Major Meade, the Governor General's Agent at Indore, in everything connected with my visit to, and enquiries in Nimar.

CHAPTER II.

JUDICIAL.

SECTION. I.—CIVIL JUSTICE.

Enforcement of Law and Procedure.

71. In Chapter II. of my Report, it was stated that the first care of this Administration had been the introduction of Law and System, and a statement was given of the various Laws which had been introduced into, and made applicable to, the whole of the Central Provinces. During the

year 1863, now under report, our chief care has been to ensure the giving of due effect to those Laws. In Provinces like these, where the training of so many of the Officers has been short or imperfect, it would be of little use to promulgate Laws, unless such promulgation be followed up from time to time by supplementary and explanatory orders. There is always a tendency to let the Law lapse into a dead letter. We are, therefore, obliged constantly to watch for instances where the Law has been but partially obeyed, or wholly disobeyed, by the Courts, and then to rectify the defect by further orders, until at last every Court becomes drilled into perfect obedience.

72. During 1863, Mr. Strachey, the Judicial Commmissioner, applied himself with strictness and vigour to this task, and issued a large number of Circular Orders. It would be tedious to enumerate all these Circulars, but the following list of some of the more important may be interesting :—

Judicial Circulars.

1.—Employment of Assessors by Deputy Commissioners exercising powers under Act XV. of 1862.

2.—Instructions regarding the preparation and keeping up of Cause Lists in Civil Suits.

3.—Instructions regarding the preparation and keeping of Cause Lists in Criminal Cases.

4.—On the nature and extent of the authority and responsibility of Deputy Commissioners in Police matters.

5.—Instructions for carrying out the Provisions of Acts VIII. of 1859, and XXIII. of 1861, or Code of Civil Procedure.

6.—Rules regarding imposition and levy of Fines.

7.—Instructions regarding the tender of pardon to accused persons; recording confessions of guilt and dying declarations.

8.—Regarding the issue of orders to subordinate Police Officers, and disposal of charges preferred against those above the rank of a Constable.

9.—Rules regardig Criminal processes, and payment of subsistence or diet-money to Witnesses.

10.—Cases of theft triable by Court of Session, and by any Magistrate.

11.—Explanation of the essential difference between Enquiry and Trial.

12.—Prescribing the issue of English Warrant, when a prisoner is sentenced by a Deputy Commissioner exercising powers under Act XV. of 1862.

13.—Rules for recording Evidence.

14.—Punjab Judicial Commissioner's memo. on the subject of Evidence being recorded in English in all trials under Act XV. of 1852.

15.—Rules for the guidance of Honorary and other Magistrates.

16.—Regarding the appointment of fixed dates for holding Courts of Session.

17.—Standing Orders regarding the duties of Clerk of the Court.

18.—Instructions for the correct preparation of Returns of Crime, furnished by Police and Deputy Commissioners.

19.—Regarding persons ordered to find security for good behaviour.

20.—Rules for regulating the payment of Travelling allowances, &c., to Prosecutors and Witnesses attending Criminal trials in High Court, Fort William.

21.—Adopting in Central Provinces, Circular Orders of Sudder Court of North-Western Provinces, regarding Appeal Cases.

22.—Regarding the detention of Witnesses by Police.

23.—Alterations and additions in Periodical Returns of Civil Suits.

24.—Explaining the manner in which all persons apprehended by the Police should be shown in Return of Crime.

25.—Prescribing the submission of a Quarterly List of Periodical Returns.

26.—Rules defining the duties and responsibilities of Landholders in Police matters.

27.—Rules regarding public gaming.

28.—Regarding the attendance of Witnesses residing within the jurisdiction of another Magistrate.

29.—Directing certain alterations and additions in Statements Nos. I. and II. of the Magistrates' Quarterly and Annual Series of Periodical Returns.

30.—Instructions regarding the disposal of parties preferring a false charge.

31.—Rules for disposal of Civil Suits by Station Courts and Tehseeldars.

32.—Rules to be observed when cases are referred by the Court of Sessions to the Judicial Commissioner, for confirmation of sentence of death.

33.—Directing reasonable time to be fixed for compliance with legal processes on part of Railway Electric Telegraph, and other Public Departments.

34.—Rules for admission of Pleaders.

73. In my last Report, it was mentioned that Mr. J. Strachey, the late Judicial Commissioner, submitted a full Report for 1862, which was the first Report of its kind that had been presented for the Central Provinces. He remained in charge during the whole of 1863.

Mr. Strachey's Minute.

But before he could furnish the Report for that year, he was, at the beginning of 1864, removed to an important post under the Supreme Government. While in Calcutta, however, he furnished a Minute of his opinion on the Administration of Justice in these Provinces, which opinion is naturally entitled to great weight. From that Minute I shall now have occasion to make several extracts.

74. The existing Judicial machinery in these Provinces was described in my last Report. The peculiarity of such agency is this, that the various Civil Judges have also magisterial and fiscal duties to perform. This system has many practical advantages, which are well known. But it has one disadvantage, in that, by the new Code of Procedure, every case must be heard, and almost every order executed,

at an appointed time. The punctual observance of these fixed hours, and of these exact requirements, all of which are calculated to be so beneficial to Suitors, can with difficulty be attained amidst the distractions which beset our Officers. We have therefore arranged (mainly at Mr. Strachey's suggestion) that the whole of the Suits at the central Station of each district (save those Suits which come before the Deputy Commissioner) shall ordinarily be tried by one Officer, whose Court will be called the Station Court. At these Station Courts then, though the Officers may change, yet the practice will be unchanging; they will be known to the people as the Courts devoted to Civil Justice, and in them at least should be secured that exclusive attention to judicial business, which has given the Regulation Provinces an advantage over the Non-regulation.

Station Court.

75. As regards the Civil Judges at the Head-Quarters of districts, viz., the Deputy Commissioners and their Assistants, these Officers are affirmed, both by the late and the present Judicial Commissioners, to have much improved in the knowledge of Law and Procedure. Mr. Strachey writes:— "Many of the Officers have learned to conduct the business of their "Courts in tolerably strict accordance with the simple Rules of Civil "Procedure, and I believe that every month has shown some improve-"ment."

Conduct of the Civil Judges.

76. But the Courts in the interior of districts are, it will be remembered, presided over by Tehseeldars (Natives). Of these there is not so good a character given. Mr. Strachey apprehends that much of their work is "indifferent." But he believes that "the defect is "more commonly one of Procedure than of actual Justice."

The vesting of these Tehseeldars with Judicial powers had the effect of multiplying Courts in the interior, which was so far satisfactory to the people. They do not seem to give dissatisfaction to Suitors. Certainly, their decisions are but little appealed against. They generally dispose of their cases promptly, as the majority of them are shown, by the Returns, to decide suits with an average duration of about twenty days. Some of them again are certainly experienced, having formerly served under the Regulation system. Some are, however, no doubt dilatory and inefficient. We have now arranged to bring the work of all of them

The Tehseeldaree Courts.

under special scrutiny; the knowledge of the people, which they gain in their other capacities, must give them a great insight into the merits of cases; and in due time they will be trained into a body of effective Civil Judges. The matter is of importance, as about half the judicial work of the country is done by them.

Increase of litigation.

77. The litigation before all the Courts is generally on the increase, as may be seen thus:—

Years.	*Original Suits.*
1861	19,238
1862	23,931
1863	23,655

Whether such increase is always a good sign, may be doubtful. Viewing the circumstances of the country, and of the administration, I think that it is a good sign; and Mr. Strachey concurs in this opinion. To a population, exclusive of semi-independent Chiefships, of under eight millions, there are 20,000 Suits; while in the Punjab, to a population of fifteen millions, there are 93,000 Suits; and in the North-Western Provinces, there are, to a population of thirty-two millions, 78,000 Suits. It would hence appear that the people in these Provinces are more litigious than those in the North-Western Provinces, and less litigious than those of the Punjab.

78. During the year 1863, a complete classification of Suits has been prepared for the first time. The following abstract may be of interest. Here, as elsewhere, the great majority of Suits are for simple debt:—

Clasification of Suits.

	No. of Cases.
Inheritance under Mahomedan Law	5
Do. under Hindoo Law	20
Do. under any other Law .. .	13
Claims in right of Adoption	1
Do. Dower	8
Suits for Partition	73
Religious Suits connected with Shrines, Castes, &c.	32
Claims to Customary Fees	86
Suits founded on right of Pre-emption	17

Suits between Mortgagor and Mortgagee	103
Do. between Master and Servant	399
Do. between Landlord and Tenant (of houses) ..	303
Suits for Tresspass direct, *e. g.*, wrongful innovation, personal injury	341
Do. indirect, *e. g.*, Libel, Nuisance, &c, ...	87
Suits connected with Marriage and Betrothal ..	205
Suits for Breach of Contract	255
Suits between Partners	163
Suits for Debt—	
1.—Parole Debts	5,935
2.—Debt on Account	4,455
3.—Do. on Bond registered	721
4.—Do. on Bond unregistered	11,302
Other claims for real property, not included in the above, ...	1,057
Do. for personal property	819
Suits for Debt between Bankers or Traders and Agriculturists	5,599
Suits of Bankers or Traders against each other	2,926

Aggregate value of Suits.

79. The total value of the property litigated, amounted to Rs. 22,71,206 in the year, giving an average of 73 rupees per Suit. This shows that here, as elsewhere, the litigation continues to be of a petty character.

Despatch of judicial business.

80. Among the results of a judicial system, the despatch of business is important. To this, a positive test can be applied by Returns, and consequently direct influence can be exercised by superior Authority; as might be expected, therefore, improvement is progressive in this respect at all events.

81. The number of Original Suits pending at the close of 1863 was only 445. Mr. Strachey observes,—"that in this respect there "hardly remains any room for improvement."

Average duration of Suits.

The general average duration of Suits, for the whole of the Provinces, was only 21 days. This degree of expedition is, indeed, nearly as good as should be desired. Mr. Strachey remarks, that—"it is nearly as good as that attain-"ed in Oude and the Punjab in 1862, and better than that in the

" North-Western Provinces." In former years, there used to be a great difference in the duration of Suits in different districts. This was a bad symptom. During 1862, the average duration in some few districts showed excessive delays; the highest being 225 days. In the Returns of 1863, excessive delays are in *no* district apparent; the extreme variation ranges from 42 days to 8, while in few districts did it exceed 20 days. This indicates an equable and general improvement. On this head Mr. Strachey remarks:—" There is still, particularly in " the districts of the Nagpore Province, very much to be done; but at " any rate the gross abuses of the old system have been got rid of. " Cases which ought to be disposed of in a day, cannot now be kept " pending for years."

Appellate business.

82. Though the number of Original Suits has increased, the number of Appeals has decreased. The number of Appeals before the Deputy Commissioner fell from 1,468 in 1862 to 805 in 1863; and before the Commissioners, from 603 in 1862 to 454 in 1863. In short, only four per cent. of the decisions are now appealed against. This might, at first sight, appear a good sign in respect to the quality of the judicial work. But it is to be remembered that the new Procedure imposes many restrictions on appealing. By some, this will be viewed with satisfaction. Mr. Strachey remarks:—" Considering the extremely petty character of " the great mass of litigation, I think that the limitation of the power " of Appeal has been very beneficial." Mr. Campbell, the present Judicial Commissioner, concurs in that opinion; and adds, that " it is only " putting these cases on the same footing as if they had been tried by " Courts of Small Causes."

Appeals to Commissioners.

83. But while acknowledging the propriety of curbing anything like license of Appeal, I think that with one important class of Appeals, namely, Appeals to the Commissioners, the Law now makes the process really too hard for Appellants, and in this respect has gone too far. Mr. Campbell thus describes the process:—" The Law requires that the Appellant (in person or by Agent) must present his application to the Commis- " sioner's Court. Then he must generally remain at the Head-Quarters " of the Commissioner for a month, while summonses are served on the " Respondent, and time is given to the latter to put in an appearance. " Further delays may be incurred while references are made to the " original Courts, regarding points not properly considered, and Appel-

"lant must be present when the Appeal is finally heard." Now, for Suitors of moderate means residing at a distance (as will so often be the case in these Provinces), it must be a serious thing to conduct an Appeal before the Commissioner, and I think that greater facility might fairly be afforded.

84. Of the cases appealed to the Deputy Commissioners, the original orders were confirmed in sixty-four per cent., and in sixty-five per cent. in those appealed to the Commissioners.

General result of Appeals.

Now, in reference to the small proportion of original orders appealed against, the above result is satisfactory, and supplies, to some extent, a favorable test of the quality of the work. The Deputy Commissioners generally disposed of their appeals with commendable promptitude. The Commissioners of Saugor and Chutteesgurh disposed of the Appellate work satisfactorily. But before the Commissioner of Jubbulpore, there were some delays; and the Commissioner of Nagpore unfortunately left a considerable number undisposed of at the end of the year. His arrears are now being cleared off by his successor.

Appeals to the Judicial Commissioner.

85. In the Judicial Commissioner's Court, during 1863, there were heard 351 special Appeals. Of these, only six were pending at the close of the year. Mr. Strachey writes:—

"Many of the cases disposed of during the year had been pend-
"ing for a very long time, not unfrequently they had their commence-
"ment shortly after the establishment of the British Government at
"Nagpore. But the whole of the old cases, without exception, have
"been got rid of, and there is now nothing to interfere with the speedy
"disposal of business."

Small Cause Courts.

86. As previously reported, there are two Small Cause Courts in these Provinces—one at Nagpore, and one at Jubbulpore. In the former, 1,435 cases have been disposed of during the year, in the latter 1,330. In both, the despatch of business has been speedy. The Nagpore Court started ill; but since the appointment of the present Judge, it has risen fast in general estimation: it is more and more frequented by Suitors, and is now, I believe, the most popular and the best managed Court in these Provinces. In the Jubbulpore Court, the amount of business has been small, but it has been fairly done.

87. The preparation of Cause Lists, on which the regular disposal of suits in their turn so much depends, has been greatly insisted upon. The Judicial Commissioner is able to report that this is really carried out everywhere.

Cause Lists.

88. The notes of evidence are now invariably taken in the handwriting of the Judge. Despite the admitted merits of this plan, its practicability has, at times, been doubted; but now, after a fair trial, all Officers seem to concur in commending it. I am sure that it must make our Judges bend their minds to their work more now than heretofore.

Evidence taken down by the Judge.

89. The elimination of Pleas and Issues is another important matter. Mr. Campbell reports his belief that this is generally carried out. I trust that this is really the case; but knowing that this is one of the last points which our Officers thoroughly learn, I hardly yet venture to hope that the rule is properly obeyed by all.

Pleas and Issues.

90. The old class of Native Ministerial Officers have now merged into Clerks of the Court, with a better recognized position, and more defined responsibilities. It is to be hoped that the change may make the precincts of our Courts more respected and less corrupt. The measure has, with few exceptions, been carried out by the Deputy Commissioners, and now by the Commissioners.

Clerks of the Court.

91. The unlicensed and uneducated Pleaders who frequented our Courts, and served few purposes, save those of evil, have, for the most part, been cleared away. The new Rules for the admission of duly qualified Pleaders have attracted but very few candidates. As yet, therefore, we have no local or Native Bar.

Pleaders.

92. Arbitration is not much resorted to. Formerly, much stress was laid on this, which is indeed a valuable institution. But under the new Procedure, the Courts cannot influence the parties in referring their disputes to arbitration.

Arbitration.

93. Despite all the facilities which have been offered for the Registration of Deeds, the people do not seem to appreciate the measure, and resort to it but little.

Registration of Deeds.

94. In a review like this, it is impossible to convey anything like a perfect notion of the administration of justice.

A resumé of the orders issued will show the system prescribed. The Returns will show how far these orders have been followed by the Courts, externally at least. But unfortunately no Return can be devised, and no complete test prescribed, for the ascertainment of the *quality* of the justice administered. I shall, however, conclude this Chapter by citing the evidence of Mr. Strachey, who is among the most competent witnesses on the subject. He writes:—"The "administration of Civil Justice in these "Provinces was formerly much worse than that of the Criminal Depart- "ment. My Report for 1862 showed that I thought the old system "very bad. There was great improvement in 1862; and it may be "confidently said, that this has continued during the year 1863, and that "the administration of Civil Justice is incomparably better than it "used to be."

General administration of Justice.

Section II.—Criminal Justice.

95. Following the order of the last Report, I will examine this subject under two heads:—*first*, the state of crime; *second*, the action of the Courts.

96. In para. 60 of my last Report, there was given a Comparative Statement of Crime in the Central Provinces for 1861 and 1862, in other Provinces for 1861. I am now able to give a comparison between crime for these Provinces, and in other Provinces all for the year 1862, drawn up by the Inspector General of Police from the published Police Returns, as it may prove of some interest.

Comparison of crime in the Central Provinces, and in other Provinces.

TABLE.

	Central Provinces.	Punjab.	Oude.	Madras.	British Burmah.	North-Western Provinces.
	Assumed Population, exclusive of Zemindarees, 8,000 000	Population. 15,000,000	Population. 6,500,000	Population. 24,000,000	Population. 2,000,000	Population. 30,000,000
	1862	1862	1862	1862	1862	1862
Murder	78	210	88	202	32	259
Culpable Homicide	26	110	40	52	21	Unknown.
Rape	40	146	60	46	64	Do.
Dacoity with murder ..	3	5	2	22	14	Do.
Dacoity	53	48	33	703	115	289
Robbery with hurt	21	19	31	11	3	
Robbery	79	117	98	843	72	
Theft by house-breaking and house tresspass ..	5,412	4,891	13,952	5,401	212	9,241
Theft of cattle	1,257	4,467	2,084	11,962	4,817	18,805
Do. ordinary	7,454	19,953	5,883			
Receiving stolen property ..	160	590	342	379	122	Unknown.
TOTAL ..	14,613	30,561	22,613	19,621	5,472	28,594

The result of the comparison is that, as regards the gravest crimes, such as murder and gang-robbery, the Central Provinces contrast favorably with Madras, with Oude, and with British Burmah; but unfavorably with the Punjab and with the North-Western Provinces. In respect to burglary and house-tresspass, there is comparatively much more of this in the Central Provinces than in the Punjab and the North-Western Provinces, and much more than in Madras, but much less than in Oude. Again, there is much less theft in the Central Provinces than in the Punjab, while there is much more than in Madras; while the proportion is much the same in the Central Provinces, in the North-Western Provinces, and in Oude.

97. The following Statement shows the state of Crime in the Central Provinces during 1863, as compared with 1862:—

Aggregate of Crime in the Central Provinces.

	1862.	1863.
I.—Heinous Offences, (headings I. to XI.)	456	381
II.—Offences against property, without aggravating circumstances	14,385	15,425
TOTAL ..	14,841	15,806

98. It is evident that there is a numerical increase in the Returns of crime generally. The increase is, however, in the lesser kinds only, and not in the graver kinds. As regards the graver kinds of crimes, the inference is favorable. As regards the crimes against property, there is always doubt as to whether the apparent increase does not arise from more crime being reported. In these, as in other Provinces, the Returns of these crimes goes on slightly increasing year by year. And, on the whole, the conviction gains ground that ordinary theft and such like offences, while they do not really increse under our rule, are not sensibly repressed. Perhaps their repression is not possible.

99. As regards the more heinous and violent crimes, the tendency of our rule ought to be, and we may hope is, to repress them decidedly. Here then it is satisfactory to notice a decrease; and we may hope for a progressive diminution year by year. The above Return would, at first sight, seem to show, however, that those crimes which come under

the direct cognizance of the Police, though to some extent repressed, are yet not so much repressed as they ought to be; and that a greater ratio of decrease might be expected. But there was in 1863 a special cause to swell the Return temporarily. During that year, there were many gang-robberies, and some murders committed in the Sumbulpore district. These crimes were so far abnormal, in that they were perpetrated not from the ordinary motives of passion or avarice, but from the instigation of leaders who had political ends to serve thereby. These occurrences then hardly fall under the usual category of crimes; and if not discriminated, they might mislead our judgment in respect to the state of crime in the country generally. It was justly observed by Mr. Strachey, that, unless exceptional cases be excluded, a general average for the whole country is apt to be delusive, and will represent nothing more than an arithmetical mean.

Decrease of heinous Crime generally.

100. If then the partially and temporarily disturbed district of Sumbulpore be excluded, the comparison for the Central Provinces generally, in respect of heinous crime, will stand thus for the two years :—

	1862.	1863.
Murder by Dacoits	3	2
Murder by Poison	6	3
Do. for robbery	17	22
Murder, ordinary	45	54
Attempt at murder	28	15
Culpable Homicide	25	26
Grievous hurt and aggravated Assault ..	110	95
Rioting with deadly weapons.. ...	3	1
Do. ordinary	1	9
Rape	39	19
Dacoity	47	38
Robbery with hurt	21	22
Robbery	79	38
Theft with preparation for hurt ..	10	7
TOTAL ..	434	351

This shows a difference less of 83 cases in 1863, or a decrease of twenty per cent. in 1863, as compared with 1862. This result is so far satisfactory; and affords some ground for a hope, that the Police

are really making an impression on the graver sorts of crime. The decrease is, indeed, about as much as could fairly be expected, especially at the first start of a new system. If anything approaching to that ratio of decrease could be maintained for the next few years, then violent crime would have been checked down to the lowest attainable point.

101. Among these crimes, the most noticeable is dacoity; which was shown in the last Report to be the great blot and opprobrium in the Criminal Annals of these Provinces. These cases fell from 47 in 1862 to 38 in 1863, a decrease of 30 per cent. (exclusive of Sumbulpore). It might hence be inferred, that the crime was beginning to decrease; such an inference must not however be drawn too soon or too certainly. In the Valley of the Nerbudda and the country north of that, the crime does seem to have nearly ceased. The outlaw, Dabee Sing, who infested the Saugor frontier, has been killed, through the exertions of the Police of the North-Western Provinces. But the crime still continues chronic in certain parts of the Sautpoora Range, north of Nagpore, and breaks out occasionally on the Wurda frontier, near Berar, and also in the Chutteesgurh country, towards the east. If we succeed in stopping it in other places, we must not be too sanguine as to its early suppression in the Sautpoora hill country. From an examination of the cases as they are reported, it is plain that daring (perhaps not exactly desperate) characters are scattered over that country; that they can easily collect gangs; that the villages are very small, and the inhabitants indisposed to resist; that the commission of robbery is not difficult; and thereafter escape into the extensive hills and jungles quite easy. The influence for evil exercised by few such characters was recently proved by the exploits of two dacoit convicts, who escaped from Jail, and then, despite all the precautions of the Police, rendered themselves the scourge of a large tract of country for two or three months. But it is ascertained that the members of gangs are often men engaged in agriculture or other industry, who leave their work for the nonce, to join the expedition, and after the spoil is divided return to their homes. All this they could never do, unless the landholders and heads of villages connived at it. Such extensive connivance is a bad social symptom. In these thinly populated tracts, the hill people are generally timid: but there are some tribes of Gonds and others who are naturally lawless, and are tempted into daring and active crime by high prices, or want, or

Decrease of Dacoity.

Causes of prevalence of dacoity in certain places.

any such cause. Altogether, in these particular Hill tracts, there is a state of things which has existed for generations, which is aggravated by the physical conformation of the country, and which will not be cured at once.

102. In the Wurdah district on the frontier of Berar, the temptation to gang-robbery has been unavoidably great. The Inspector General of Police, Colonel Taylor, has given the following explanation, which I shall quote :—

Temptations to Crime.

"Large sums of money are constantly passing along the roads "to the great cotton marts. These are "insufficiently guarded, and nothing can be "more reckless than the manner in which the Native Merchants in "this part of India send their money about. Large sums of cash "are despatched by footmen, on carts, or camels, by night or by day, "either without guards at all, or with guards quite inadequate for their "protection. I have warned the Native Merchants of the risks they "run, and have invited them to apply for Police escorts, or to cause "their messengers when halting for the night to put up at Police posts; "but hitherto without much effect."

103. In the Agricultural districts again, the landholders have made much money by the high prices, which money it is well known that they hoard at home. Here, again, a bait is offered to robbers. On several of the robberies which have occurred, the occurrence has shown that sufferers had amassed quantity of cash, which under other circumstances would hardly have been credible. It is however satisfactory that, despite this provoking cause, burglary has not gained any head, as will be thus seen :—

Burglary.

	1862.	1863.
Theft with house-breaking or house-trespass..	5,343	5,333

104. Cattle stealing would *seem* to have decreased, as may be thus seen :—

Cattle stealing.

	1862.	1863.
Theft of Cattle	1,253	1,157

But I fear that this can only be a decrease in reporting. The result instead of being satisfactory is the reverse. Considering the

extraordinary rise in the value of cattle of late, I should apprehend that the thefts of animals, so suddenly valuable, and so easily stolen, must have really increased.

105. In 1862, the increase in the Return of cases of receiving stolen property was a matter for congratulation, as proving increase of detection. This improvement has continued; the cases having risen from 156 in 1862 to 244 in 1863. Among the cases of 1863, there were several notable instances in which regular practised receivers were brought to punishment.

Receivers of stolen property detected.

103. In the Sumbulpore district, excluded from the above analysis, there were 407 crimes of the graver sort in 1863, against 196 in 1862. Many of these cases, however, arose out of the partial and temporary disturbances in that district. Of these, the worst were 3 robberies with murder, 16 dacoities, 179 burglaries. At the beginning of this year, however, 1864, various political arrests were made, and since then dacoities have ceased.

Crime in Sumbulpore.

107. On the whole, then, considering that, exclusive of Sumbulpore, violent and heinous crimes have decreased in these Provinces generally, by twenty per cent. during the year under review, and that there has been a slight decrease in dacoity; that in Sumbulpore, the exceptional crimes have been recently stopped; that, despite the frequent distress, and the high prices of every thing, burglary has not increased, and that the only increase is in theft of a petty character, which increase has only amounted to 12 per cent; that the detection of the receivers of stolen property has been greatly improved,—I regard the general state of crime to be tolerably satisfactory, though still showing many defects to be remedied, and much room for improvement.

General state of Crime satisfactory.

108. I now proceed to the second heading, namely, the action of the Courts.

Action of the Criminal Courts.

109. The business of the Criminal Courts increased from 13,372 cases and 22,556 persons tried in 1862, to 15,207 cases and 26,847 persons in 1863. But notwithstanding this increase of business, the number of cases pending at the close of the year fell from 78 in 1862 to 56 in

1863. In fact there were no arrears at all, and the amount of business pending (doubtless from inevitable causes) was inappreciably small. This shows that the Courts have become very attentive to their work; and, indeed, that their attention has been brought up to nearly its highest attainable point. Again, the average duration of trials, which was moderate in 1862, being then 11 days, was further decreased during 1863 to 8 days. The Courts have now probably reached the fair limit of despatch, and are quite as quick as they ought to be. Any further degree of expedition would probably not be desirable.

Despatch of business.

Mr. Strachey, writing on this subject, observes:—"These results "will bear comparison, and the detailed Returns show that these figures "represent facts, and not a mere arithmetical mean. In the previ- "ous year, 1862, the variations in the average duration were great in "the different districts. These extreme differences have now disap- "peared."

110. Fewer witnesses were summoned in 1863 than in 1862; the number being 53,923 in 1862, to 42,914 in 1863. This shows that greater caution was exercised, so that witnesses might not be summoned unnecessarily. Of the witnesses summoned 93 per cent. were detained for only one day.

Attendance of Witnesses.

111. The work thus despatched would seem to have been fairly done, so far as can be judged by the result of Appeals. The number of Appeals decreased from 310 in 1862 to 228 in 1863 in the Courts of the Deputy Commissioners, and from 432 to 386 in the Courts of the Commissioners. In the former the percentage of reversals fell from 33 to 30 per cent., in the latter it remained stationary at 20 per cent. In short, less than one in a hundred of the decisions passed in all the Criminal Courts, was disturbed by the Appellate Courts.

Result of Appeals.

112. It would seem that improvement is being made in the judicious award of punishment. Of 13,931 persons punished, about 60 per cent. were fined. The average amount of fine in 1862 was 6 rupees. In 1863 it rose to 9 rupees. Of the fines imposed, 70 per cent. were realized. Hence it is evident that resort is had more and more to fine, which is an excellent punishment. Again, the sentences of imprisonment are moderate, as

Classification of punishments.

out of the persons imprisoned only ten per cent. were sentenced to terms exceeding six months. It is to be observed that the Law, whereby compensation is ordered to be paid by the guilty to the aggrieved parties, has been begun to be worked. No less than Rs. 12,299 were thus awarded during the year.

113. On the other hand, whereas only 28 per cent. of persons tried were acquitted in 1862, there were 35 per cent. acquitted in 1863. In this respect there is a slight falling off. This would appear to be the fault of the Courts in summoning parties occasionally without adequate grounds.

114. The Police do not seem to have been at fault in the above respects, for they made more arrests, and of those again they obtained a greater proportion of convictions in 1863 than in 1862. There were 6,797 cases investigated by the Police in 1862; of these, arrests were made in 64 per cent. There were 7,075 persons sent up for trial, of whom 66 per cent. were convicted. In 1863, there were 7,332 cases investigated, in 76 per cent. of which arrests were made; and 8,995 persons were sent up for trial, of whom 81 per cent. were convicted. All this clearly indicates improvement in detection of crime generally. Writing on this subject, Mr. Strachey remarks that these results are "as good as we can expect "to get."

Arrests and convictions.

115. It is further important to note the result of Police action in those particular crimes which are the gravest. Hence it appears that in murder cases more persons were arrested and convicted in 1863 than in 1862. The same remark applies to robbery. In cases of robbery with hurt, though more persons were not arrested, yet more were convicted in 1863 than in 1862. So far there is marked improvement. As regards dacoity, the result of the two years is nearly balanced, and there is no marked improvement. Saving dacoity then, these details indicate increased detection.

Police action in heinous cases.

116. The total value of property reported to the Police as stolen, amounted to Rs. 3,53,721 (£35,372) in 1862, against Rs. 3,34,369 (£33,437) in 1863. Of property valued at Rs. 2,33,361 (£23,336), reported stolen in cases investigated by the Police, some 80,081 rupees (£8,008) worth, or 34 per cent. was recovered. This is a fair result.

Recovery of stolen property.

117. The average duration of trials by the Sessions Courts was 50 days in 1863. This is still too high, but it is in part unavoidable, owing to the difficulty of holding Sessions at sufficiently frequent intervals, especially in remote districts. The result, though not good, is still an improvement. Upon this subject, Mr. Strachey writes :—

Duration of Sessions cases.

" The extreme delay in the disposal of criminal cases in the " Courts of Session, often extending over eight or nine months, for " which these Provinces were formerly notorious, have entirely ceased."

118. Regarding the conduct of the Courts generally, I shall quote Mr. Strachey's opinion, which is entitled to weight, as he used to send for the cases of every Officer in turn for examination. He writes :—

" The Officers presiding over the Courts have made much pro- " gress during the year in knowledge of the Law. I may record my " belief that, although there is doubtless still " great room for improvement, those Courts " which are presided over by European Officers need not be ashamed " of comparison with the Courts of other parts of India. I believe " this to be true, whether we look to the substantial justice they " administer, or to the regularity and correctness of their procedure. " The same may be said generally of the Native Gentlemen employed " as Extra-Assistant Commissioners. I regret that I cannot give so " high a character of the Tehseeldars; the quality of whose work " remains but too often indifferent." It has been explained in the section on Civil Justice that further means will be taken to train the Tehseeldars.

Conduct of the Officers generally.

119. In paras. 83 and 84 of my last Report, mention was made of the appointment of Honorary Magistrates. During 1863 some 40 Honorary Magistrates have been at work, and have decided some 2,060 cases. The distinction of serving as Honorary Magistrates is much prized by the majority of Native Gentlemen. I receive frequent requests from individuals soliciting the distinction. And those who are appointed display a laudable emulation among themselves as to who shall do the most work. Mr. Strachey, while he thinks that in the interior full use has not been made of the Honorary Magistrates, yet considers that in " Nagpore itself, the appointment of these Gentlemen has been a " decidedly successful measure. They have disposed of the greater part " of the petty criminal business of the city, and I believe that their

The Honorary Magistrates.

"decisions have given satisfaction to the public." Mr. Campbell, the present Judicial Commissioner, writes,—"Of the Honorary Magistrates, "Baba Bulwunt Rao, of Jubbulpore, and Zorawansing, of Saugor, are "mentioned as having done particularly well. Those of Nagpore "have, as a body, done remarkably well.

Section III.—Police.

120. The various steps by which the Police in these Provinces have been formed and organized were described in my two previous Reports.

121. For the year 1862-63, the cost of the sanctioned Establishment stood as follows :—

	Men.	Rs.	£.
Regular Police, paid from Government Revenues	6,955	11,18,906	1,11,890
Municipal Police, paid from Local Funds ..	1,470	1,03,996	10,999
Total..	8,435	12,23,902	1,22,889

But in para. 94 of my last Report, it was stated the Mounted branch of the service was about to be somewhat reduced. During the year under Report, 1863-64, these reductions have been carried out, and 263 of these men were dispensed with at an annual saving of Rs. 74,000 (£7,400). Liberal terms, in respect of pension for the discharged men, were sanctioned by Government. On the other hand, the pay of the lowest grade of Foot Constables has been raised from five to six rupees per mensem. Owing to the high prices of all necessaries of life, and the general rise of wages, it was found impossible to enlist fit men at less pay than six rupees. There has also been some increase in the

Cost of the Police.

Establishment of the Officers. Thus the sanctioned charges for the year are as follows :—

	Men.	Rs.	£.
Regular Police, paid from Government Revenues	6,482	10,69,972	1,06,997
Municipal Police, paid from Local Funds ..	1,384	1,03,800	10,380
TOTAL ..	7,866	11,73,772	1,17,377

122. The present charge on the Government Revenue amounts to 10⅝ lacs, which is Rs. 55,000 less than the amount of 11¼ lacs proposed and sanctioned in 1862. But, although the charge is at present well within the limit, which is not on any account to be exceeded, yet there will probably be some further increase which may bring the charge nearly up to that limit; for the experience of the last two years proves that the Foot Police are not numerically strong enough for the duties imposed upon them by the Law and by the new system. Those duties have been lightened as much as possible: but still the pressure upon the men is frequently excessive, and a fair amount of relief cannot always be afforded. It is the concurrent opinion, not only of the Police Officers, but also of all the Civil Officers, that some slight addition to the strength to the Foot Police is absolutely needed. The matter is now under consideration.

Some increase to the Foot Police required.

123. In respect to the conduct of the new Police, the preceding Section, on Criminal Justice, will have shown that they are improving, certainly in the detection of crime, and probably also in its suppression. They have caused the more heinous crime to diminish generally (save in one exceptional district); they have prevented any increase occurring in other crimes, save in ordinary theft, which is partly removed by Law from their cognizance; they have improved in the discovery of receivers of stolen property; they have made more arrests than formerly, and of those arrests they have obtained a larger proportion of convictions; they have recovered a fair amount of stolen property; they have considerably advanced in the knowledge of Law and Procedure, and in the discrimination of evidence.

Merits of the new Police.

124. On the other hand, they are still deficient in detective skill and power. In this respect they have not made any appreciable

advance; and this continues to be their cardinal defect. When any really difficult business occurs, to test their skill or knowledge, they frequently seem to be groping in the dark. Their failure to trace the dacoit leaders and gangs; their inability even to catch great offenders, who are known by name, and also known to infest particular localities, afford but too convincing proof that they are wanting both in local knowledge and influence. Again, they are not so proficient in the mode of conducting enquiries and preparing cases as they ought to be. In short, as regards the intellectual, and what may even be called the scientific part of their profession, they are defective.

Their defects.

125. But besides their purely civil duties, the Police have a variety of administrative duties to perform. During the year under report, they have patrolled daily 3,900 miles of road; they have guarded daily 4,000 prisoners in jail; they have escorted 36¾ lakhs of treasure; they have protected 55 lakhs of rupees in the various Treasuries. All this work they have done with entire efficiency. Their general appearance, the condition of their arms and accoutrements, their drill and discipline, are all correct. Their Lines, Stations and Posts, are well kept. I have seen most of these latter myself, and often in our most remote frontiers I have met with Police Posts, where the cleanliness, order and system, may cause surprise, and even challenge admiration. All this shows that a zealous spirit pervades the whole Force from the Officer to the private.

Their administrative duties.

126. The Privates, that is, the Constables, are generally men of a tolerably good stamp; many can read and write, and more are learning to do so. The chance, almost the certainty of promotion, being awarded to merit, stimulates the exertion of every competent man. The highest grade of the Native Officers, the Inspectors also, are generally good, and some are able and accomplished. But, among the other grades of Native Officers, namely, the Chief Constables, a large proportion are not really fit for their posts, and this constitutes one of the reasons why the Police are found wanting in detective ability. But looking to the spread of education among the privates, which is much fostered by the Adult schools to the educational tests enforced, to the certainty of promotion according to qualification, to the normal training in Law and Procedure; I anticipate that a well-educated and well-trained class of Policemen and Native Officers will be springing up.

Character of the various Grades.

127. Attention continues to be given to the inspection of the Police. Schools both for adults and children exist in many of the districts. The daily average attendance at the close of the year amounted to 430 men and 240 boys. The Normal schools at Saugor and Nagpore, for the instruction of selected Policemen in Law and Procedure, continue to be useful. Three examinations were held in 1863, when 22 men obtained 1st Class Certificates, and 57 men 2nd Class.

Instruction of the New Police.

128. The number of Policemen punished by the Magistrates during the year is as follows :—

	Fined.	*Imprisoned.*	*Transported.*	*Total.*
Chief Constables ..	4	2	..	6
Head Constables ..	24	12	..	36
Constables ..	94	92	..	186
TOTAL ..	122	106	..	223

There were also 2 Inspectors, 25 Chief Constables, 33 Head Constables, and 342 Constables dismissed departmentally. The above figures seem to show that a severe supervision over misconduct is exercised. The general conduct of the Police is good, and their bearing towards the people is satisfactory. They are less oppressive, less corrupt, less troublesome, less inclined towards inquisitorial proceedings, or other interference, than the old Police. This is attested by the majority of Civil Officers; and so far as I can judge, is confirmed by public opinion. Applications have been not unfrequently made by individuals or by villagers for the retention or for the establishment of Police posts in their neighbourhood. On the whole, I believe that the new Police have earned a good character for themselves.

General conduct of the Police Force.

129. Recently, in reply to Circular queries, the Civil Officers in these Provinces have almost unanimously declared their opinion that, after balancing advantages and disadvantages, the new system of Police is a real reform, and constitutes a decided improvement over the old. On this point, the concurrence of opinion is perhaps remarkable.

Favorable testimony by the Civil Officers.

130. But almost all the Civil Officers are of opinion that the new Police is too independent of, and too much separated from, the District Officers, and ought to be made more directly subordinate to the Magistrates. The late and the present Judicial Commissioners hold this view so strongly, that they deem it necessary to bring the point prominently to notice. I merely report the fact, as an abstract discussion cannot be entered into in this place. As the Law now stands, the Police of a district, though departmentally independent, act under the general direction of the Magistrate. Certainly, in these Provinces, every effort has been made, by various injunctions from time to time, to induce the Magistrates to exercise the supervision with which they are charged by Law. They do so much more than they did, though perhaps not so much as they ought. Reiterated orders will, it is hoped, ensure their doing so to the full and proper extent. The Police have nowhere shown any disposition to escape the authority of the Magistrates. There have been few disputes, indeed almost none: and the relations between the Police and the Civil authorities have been amicable.

Relations between the Police and the Magistrates.

131. In para. 93 of my last Report, I mentioned the status of the so-called village Police, and explained the objections to their being subjected to any particular organization. With the sanction of the Supreme Government, it has now been decided that their status shall not be altered, and that they shall be retained merely as village servants, the same as formerly. Effect is now being given to this view.

The village Watchmen.

132. The real village Police in these Provinces are the petty village proprietors, who are bound by Law to assist the regular Police, and are in a position, if they choose, to do so effectually. The Judicial Commissioner prepared a Manual for guidance of landholders, explaining the whole Law in respect to their responsibilities in this matter. These have been duly promulgated. The Inspector General of Police, and many of his Officers, testify to the demeanor and conduct of the landholders having improved in consequence.

Police responsibilities of landholders.

SECTION IV.—JAILS.

The Inspector of Jails.

133. For the year under review, the management of our prisons has been under the supervision of an Inspector of Jails. The result of this appointment has not been very marked during the first year; but some time necessarily passed away before the Inspector could get the administration well in hand. Exertions are however being made, and there is every reason to hope that, in future years, the degree of progress will be greater.

Jail buildings.

134. The matter first claiming attention, is the erection of Jail buildings. The general insufficiency of these has been shown in previous Reports. During this last year, however, considerable progress has been made with the new Central Jails at Nagpore and Raepore. The first is calculated to hold 1,000 prisoners, and the latter 750. Considerable portions of both of these will be so far advanced within a few months as to accommodate a number of prisoners. These finished, there will be enough Jail accommodation in the districts of the Nagpore and Chutteesgurh Divisions. But in the districts of the Jubbulpore and the Nerbudda Divisions, there is the need of, at least, one Central Jail at Jubbulpore, which has not yet been commenced. The commencement of this has been delayed, owing to pending questions regarding the site of the Railway Terminus. If, as is hoped, this shall be settled soon, a commencement may be made during the next season. In several stations, the existing accommodation has been improved; and a new Lock up at Sumbulpore has been commenced. But still the Jails are generally over-crowded to an extent which must affect the health of the prisoners. The only remedy is to urge on the erection of the three Central Jails; and out of these, two are already under construction.

Aggregate number of prisoners.

135. The increase in the number of prisoners has been slight, which is so far fortunate; the numbers (by daily average) having been 3,973 in 1862, and 4,131 in 1863. The new Law authorizing flogging will tend to diminish the number. But this diminution will not be so great as might be supposed. It has been calculated that the numbers of prisoners now in Jail who might have been flogged instead

of imprisoned is under 500, which would only give a reduction of 7 per cent. on the total number.

136. The total average cost of the prisoners per head, has amounted to forty-five rupees, six-and-a-half annas, or £4 10*s.* 9¾*d.* in 1863, which shows an increase over the average of 1362, which stood at forty-one rupees, ten annas, or £4 3*s.* 3*d.* The increase has, however, been mainly caused by the great rise in the prices of most of the articles consumed in the Jails. The prices of grain, of wood, of oil, of cloths, which had previously ranged high, increased from 15 to 25 per cent. during 1863. Consequently, despite all the economies that could be practised, the average cost per prisoner rose in respect of diet, of clothing, and of miscellaneous charges. This increase was not altogether avoidable; on the other hand, there has been no increase in respect of guards, permanent and contingent, of fixed establishments, and of medicines. Still, although high charges may be to some extent excusable, there is a need of further economy, the enforcement of which must be managed.

Average cost of prison r per head.

137. The daily average percentage of sick in the Jails has been 6·01 in 1863, showing an increase over the average of 1862, which was 5·07. This is not quite satisfactory. Again, the percentage of deaths in 1863 has been 10·14, against 4·12 in 1862. This indicates an unfortunate degree of mortality in 1863, which arose from outbreaks of epidemic disease (chiefly Cholera) in six of the Jails. The present over-crowded condition of the Jails does no doubt impede sanitary measures. Whenever epidemic disease manifests itself, due steps are taken to separate and scatter the prisoners.

Percentage of sickness and death.

138. The in-door labor system has been well carried out in most of the Jails. The net cash profits from Jail manufactures have risen from Rs. 6,615 (£661 10*s.* 0*d.*) in 1862 to Rs. 9,562 (£956 4*s.* 0*d.*) in 1863; and the value of articles manufactured by the prisoners for prison use increased from 13,000 rupees (£1,300) in 1362, to Rupees 17,000 (£1,700) in 1863. The number of prisoners detached, for menial duties within the Jails, has been diminished by 8 per cent., which is satisfactory. The Jail gardens are in good order.

In-door labor.

139. The instruction of the prisoners in reading and writing is progressing. The number under instruction has risen from 1,744 in 1862 to 2,844 in 1863; and the number who can both read and write has risen from 1,205 in 1862 to 1,564 in 1863.

Instruction in reading and writing.

140. The classification of the prisoners is partially carried out, so far as the defective accommodation will admit. Solitary confinement cannot be carried out until cells shall be constructed in the new Jails. The good behaviour system is being carried out, and rules regarding it have been submitted for the final sanction of the Supreme Government. The general conduct of the prisoners has been good. The number of escapes, however, has been considerable: 70 having escaped during the year, out of whom 29 were re-captured. Of the escapes, however, a large portion occurred at Mohtoor, where a large gang of prisoners were stationed in temporary huts to work at the new Sanitarium.

Internal discipline.

141. During 1863, nearly all the Jails have been placed under the executive charge of the Civil Surgeons, in subordination to the Magistrates. It is hoped that this measure will conduce to efficiency.

Civil Surgeons in charge of Jails.

CHAPTER III.

REVENUE.

SECTION I.—LAND TAX.

142. IN 1862-63, the demand on account of the Land Tax stood at Rs. 57,38,832 (£573,883), inclusive of the realizable balances of previous years; while the actual collections amounted to Rs. 53,27,574*

* In last year's Report, para. 121, the collections were stated at Rs. 53,40,553. This has been corrected by Deputy Commissioners in the Returns of this year, it having been ascertained that some 6,000 rupees of collections on account of Miscellaneous Revenues, and some 12,000 rupees entered twice over in one district, were included in the total collections.

(£532,757). In 1863-64, the demand on account of that year added to the realizable balances of previous years amounted to Rs. 55,64,631 (£556,463), while the actual collections have amounted to Rs. 52,76,513.

Collections of the past and the present year.

Thus, though the collections of 1863-64 appear slightly less than those of the year previous, yet in reality they have improved. In 1862-63 92 per cent. of the realizable demand was collected, whereas in 1863-64 95 per cent. was collected; and the balance at the close of 1863-64 was only Rs. 2,88,168, against Rs. 4,11,258 at the close of the previous year. Last year, in certain districts, especially in Nagpore, there was some laxity in this respect, but that has been corrected in the year under report. Without doubt the Land Tax is for the most part lightly assessed. Coercive processes are so rare and so slight, that it may be said that, practically, they are not resorted to. The current demand for the year 1863-64 alone, exclusive of realizable balances of previous years, was Rs. 52,53,338 (£525,833), against Rs 53,03,776 (£530,377) on account of 1862-63. The falling off is however nominal, and owing to an operation of account whereby the date of collection of an instalment of the year's demand in one district was pushed forward a few days. And, as this brought it into the next year, it fell out of the current year's accounts, where, had it remained, it would have appeared for the most part as a balance.

143. In Chapter IV. of my last Report, allusion was made to the efforts which had been put forth to advance the regular Settlement of the Land Revenue throughout these Provinces. These operations have been prosecuted in fourteen districts during this year. Last year, a Special Commissioner was applied for to aid in the supervision of this work. That application was sanctioned by the late Viceroy; and Mr. Morris, the Commissioner, joined his post in September, and has since examined the Settlements in every district.

The Regular Settlement.

Appointment of a Settlement Commissioner.

144. In para. 126 of my last Report, it was calculated that the assessments had been prepared for Rs. 24,79,569 of revenue, and would be announced within the year 1863-64. The amounts, actually announced and accepted within the year, have been as follows :—

Assessments of the Land Tax.

	No. of villages.	Total Revenue assessed.
Jubbulpore	2,435	Rs. 5,03,869
Dumoh	634	„ 1,35,025
Saugor	649	„ 1,35,030
Nursingpore	153	„ 56,739
Hoshungabad	638	„ 2,42,135
Baitool	1,036	„ 1,13,546
Seonee	553	„ 1,26,163
Nagpore	1,181	„ 3,09,749
Wurdah	988	„ 3,99,072
Bhundara	209	„ 1,13,836
TOTAL ...	8,621	Rs. 21,35,164
		£213,516

This represents nearly half the land revenue of these Provinces. Besides the above, there has been made preparation for assessment (including inspection of villages) in several districts to an approximate amount of thirteen and a quarter lakhs of rupees (£132,500). If both be taken together, it may be said that the assessment of two-thirds of the land revenue will soon be completed.

145. In some districts there has been decrease, in others increase of demand. On the whole, there is a net increase of Rupees 1,12,749, £11,274 (on the assessments already declared), or 5½ per cent. over the old demand. The Settlement Commissioner expresses his conviction that the assessments which have been declared are moderate. And from the absence of complaint on the part of the landholders, it may be inferred that this conviction is well grounded. In some districts, the landholders indeed have admitted to me (which is rather an unusual admission with them) that the assessments are really moderate and satisfactory. The rates at which the assessments fall in the several districts are certainly moderate, varying from one anna (1½*d.*) to Rs. 1-4-0, or 2*s.* 6*d.* per cultivated acre per annum. The last named rate is an average applicable to considerable tracts of country. There are individual villages assessed at higher rates.

Moderation of demand.

146. The demarcation of village boundaries was completed in previous years for the greater part of these Provinces. During the last year it has been carried on chiefly in the Eastern or Chutteesgurh Division. The boundary work thus done has comprised 5,575 villages.

Village boundaries.

147. The field measurement had been much advanced in previous years. During this year it was carried on in several districts, and some 2,411 villages were thus measured up, field by field.

Field measurement.

148. The determination and recognition of properietary right (a matter second only in importance to the assessment) had been done in upwards of 5,000 villages up to the year under report. During this year, this has been done in 11,506 villages.

Proprietary right.

149. The record of rights, which among other things registers the status of all cultivators, ryots, occupants, and other papers requisite for the completion of the settlement, have been proceeded within all the districts where the assessments have been declared. This operation is nearly finished in two districts, Baitool and Jubbulpore, and is far advanced in others.

Record of rights.

150. There is an extensive re-adjustment of rents going on all over the country: the effect being generally to enhance the income derivable by the proprietor for the land, by about from 5 to 25 per cent. This important process is being conducted by the parties concerned, *i. e.*, landlord and tenant, with as little interference as possible from the Settlement Officers.

Re-adjustment of Rents.

151. The demarcation of waste lands, to which no private claim can be made good, has been proceeded with under rules sanctioned by the Supreme Government in the Hoshungabad and Baitool districts in the Nerbudda Division, and in the Dumoh and Saugor districts in the Jubbulpore Division, and in the Wurdah district in the Nagpore Division. This will facilitate the future purchase of available lots under the Rules for the sale of Waste Lands.

Demarcation of Waste Lands.

152. The investigation of the numerous petty revenue free tenures continues. Some 16,365 cases of this kind had been investigated up to the year under Report. During this year some 15,580 more cases were similarly disposed of.

Revenue free tenures.

153. The suits regarding rent and other questions between landlord and tenant, heard by the Revenue Officials, amounted to 4,467 during the year, showing a slight increase over the previous year.

Suits between landlord and tenant.

154. In para. 134 of my last Report, it was stated that a Code had been prepared embodying all the orders issued at various times regarding Settlement affairs in these Provinces, together with supplementary orders on a multitude of fresh points. This Code, having been authorized by the Supreme Government, has been promulgated with good effect.

Code of Rules for the Settlement.

155 In some districts, advances (Tuccavee) on the security of the land have been made to proprietors for the construction of wells, tanks, and other works of agricultural improvement. In some 107 such cases, these advances have been made at an aggregate of Rs. 29,221 (£2,922). Whereas elsewhere, the people evince care and regularity in the repayment of these advances. The survey and examination of tanks in the Nagpore district was adverted to in my two previous Reports. Many of these have since been repaired, and the grant of further advances for this purpose is in contemplation.

Cash advances for improvements.

156. The professional revenue survey has advanced during the year. Three parties have been at work in different districts, and the out-turn of the year's work amounts to an area surveyed of 3,850 square miles. The districts of Saugor, Jubbulpore, Nursingpore, Nagpore, Wurdah, Bhundara, and part of Hoshungabad, have now been completely surveyed. There still remains, however, work enough for several years.

The professional revenue survey.

157. Considering the increased culture of valuable products; the continued high range of the price of grain; the facilities which the villagers have of turning their spare time to account by labor on Public Works; the great influx of money from all these causes into the interior of the country; the continued abundance of the harvests,—we must suppose that the condition of agriculturists, from the highest to the lowest, is flourishing. All this should, *prima facie*, lead to increase in the land revenue, as the classes who pay that important tax are becoming richer and richer. Now there *is* an increase generally perceptible in the new assessments which are being made at the Settlement. But this increase bears no

Condition of the agricultural classes.

adequate proportion to the recent growth of the people in prosperity. There are, however, reasons which, to some extent, account for this. The tenures are generally those of landlord and tenant, and this circumstance prevents the State from receiving as much direct advantage from agricultural improvement as it might under other tenures. Then the landlord, in the first place, cannot practically enhance his rent quite as much as might be supposed, because there has been heretofore a sort of fixity of rent (which will however disappear under the new system); because there is so much available land, so that tenants actually become objects of competition among landlords; and because the public are not assured that prices, which have risen so suddenly, will always continue firm. In the second place, the tenant cannot pay quite as much rent as would be supposed. For while, on the one hand, he gets much more now than formerly for the produce he has to sell, still he has to pay more for the articles he buys from others. For his draught cattle (very important to him) he pays three or four times as much as before. His clothes are much dearer. His timber is more difficult to procure. For such farm labor as he has to employ, he must give higher wages.

Section II.—Other Taxes,—Salt Tax, Excise, Stamps, &c.

158. The revenue from Customs duty on salt continues to increase. In last year's Administration Report, it was stated to have amounted to Rs. 9,95,290 (£99,529) in 1861-62, and to Rs. 12,25,434 (£122,543) in 1862-63. In the year under report it has amounted to Rs. 13,20,959 (£132,096). The increase is slight. But it is satisfactory, that, while there is no general complaint of the high price of salt, the full amount of revenue continues to be realized.

Increased receipts from salt duty.

In the Administration Report for 1861-62, paras. 209 to 213, the collection of salt duty by an Imperial Customs line, from a point on the northern boundary of these Provinces to a point in their centre on the

Wynegunga river, and by a Local Customs line along the western boundary of these Provinces south of the Nerbudda river, and along the eastern boundary of the old Nagpore Province, was explained. The local arrangements on the western frontier were temporary. Their co-existence with the Imperial line down to a certain parallel of latitude was anomalous, and needlessly expensive. Their efficient superintendance by the usual district establishments was difficult. It was accordingly proposed to abolish the Seonee section of the Imperial line which ran through the centre of these Provinces south of the Nerbudda, and to make over the Local line along the western boundary, from the Nerbudda near Nursingpore to Chanda, to the special Customs department. The proposal was sanctioned by the Supreme Government, and has been carried out. Salt duty is therefore now collected by the Imperial Customs department along the whole length of the western boundary of these Provinces, from a point above Saugor to Chanda. On the Eastern boundary, the old arrangements continue for the present. The substitution of departmental for local supervision will, no doubt, tend to increased efficiency. The expense may slightly increase, but payment of duty will be less frequently evaded, and the revenue will probably rise. By the above arrangements, no change has been made in the rates of duty, which continue at Rs. 3 per maund of 40 seers on Rajpootana salt, and Rs. 1½ on Bombay salt.

Extension of the Imperial Customs line.

159. The revenue from a duty on Saccharine produce has declined from Rs. 1,74,479 (£17,447) in 1862-63, to Rs. 1,35,309 (£13,530) in 1863-64. This is wholly owing to the abolition of the duty on the Saccharine produce levied in the districts of the old Nagpore Province. The revenue from that local duty decreased from Rs. 75,426, (£75,42) to Rs. 24,063 (£2,406). On the Imperial Customs line the revenue did not decline. On the contrary, it rose from Rs. 99,053 (£9,905) in 1862-63 to Rs. 1,11,233 (£11,124) in 1863-64.

Sugar duty.

160. The local duty on opium has risen from Rs. 6,934 (£6,93) to Rs. 8,041 (£804). It was mentioned in my last Administration Report, that the Supreme Government had sanctioned the establishment of scales at Nagpore, for the convenience of traders who might prefer to bring opium for export to Nagpore to be taxed, rather than to take it to Indore for the purpose. Sanction has been received during the year under

Opium.

report for the similar establishment of a set of scales and weighment establishment at Baitool, where the opium is chiefly grown. As yet, however, full effect of these measures is undeveloped.

Fluctuations in Excise Receipts.

161. The revenue from Excise on spirits, exclusive of balances, has decreased from Rs. 6,61,323 (£66,132) in 1862-63, to Rs. 5,73,050 (£57,305) in 1863-64. The revenue in 1862-63 also showed a considerable falling off from the revenue of 1861-62, which amounted to Rs. 8,01,840 (£80,184). Of the whole falling off during 1863-64, Rs. 45,277 (£4,527 14s.) occurred in the districts where the old system of farming the monopoly of manufacture and vend still prevails. The remainder, Rs. 40,964 (£4,096 8s.), took place in the districts where the Sudder Distillery system has been introduced. The revenues of 1862-63 comprised the revenue raised under the new system for only the last half of the year. A comparison, therefore, between the financial results of the Sudder Distillery system for two whole years is not feasible. A comparison, however, between the revenues under that system during the 1st six months of its operation, and the same during the corresponding six months composing the last half of 1863-64, shows an improvement during the latter period of 17 per cent. This shows that the minimum point has been reached, and the revenue is now reviving.

The Sudder Distillery System.

162. The principles and objects of the Sudder Distillery system were stated in paras. 142 to 150 of the Administration Report for 1862-63. By regulating the duty at the Still-head, and by thus forcing the price of spirits up to that point at which their consumption as an inordinate indulgence or a vice, ceases. The maximum revenue is derived from the smallest possible consumption. This end, however, is not achieved at once. At the outset, difficulties have to be encountered. It does indeed appear that the amount of consumption was, on the introduction of the system, at once reduced to even a lower point than could be permanently maintained. To a certain extent, people will consume spirits. To attempt to repress drinking below this extent, would only drive the people to illicit means of obtaining liquor. Under the Sudder Distillery system this would practically result from either too high a duty, or from the absence of a sufficient number of vendors. The rates of duty are always in the power of the Administration. But the difficulty is to get persons to undertake the vend. Where the Sudder Distillery system prevails, there are now 540 shops in place of 2,070

which existed under the old system. The professional vendors all belong to the class who worked the system which the Sudder Distillery system superseded. Under that system they derived much larger profits than they could hope for under the Sudder Distillery system. The introduction of the Sudder Distillery system interfered with their gains. From them, therefore, nothing which would conduce to its success could be expected. They threw up the trade, or seemed to do so. They could not, if they would, at once adapt themselves to the new system. Besides, continued passive resistance might, they supposed, cause a return to their own cherished monopoly. They could not, of course, appreciate the moral motives which had led to its abolition. They would argue that Government had only to find that the new system was a financial loss, to abandon it, and return to the old.

Its effect on the revenue.

These difficulties could not be surmounted at once. The revenue, therefore, for the first year or two, would be abnormally low. Until the drinking classes were afforded the facilities which they required, the system would not be in full operation; there would be danger of consumption exceeding, by illicit means, the ratio it should bear to the revenue; in other words, the revenue would be below the legitimate maximum. It is this transition stage which we have been, and are still passing through. The revenue is still below its proper maximum. But it is rising, and this shows that the people are adapting themselves to it.

163. Recently Major F. L. Magniac, who has had considerable experience in Abkaree administration, was specially deputed to visit the districts in which the Sudder Distillery system has been introduced, to enquire into its working, and to report on the special adaptations required with reference to the particular circumstances of each district. This has led to the adoption of measures which will tend to the speedier consolidation of the new system.

164. In regard to the effects of the Sudder Distillery system, since its introduction two years ago, on the people, all that has been learnt during the year that is past, confirms what was stated on this point in the Administration Report for 1862-63 (paras. 146 to 149). It was doubted, by some, whether the system could be successfully introduced into the wilder districts of these Provinces. The facilities for illicit manufacture and for smuggling were apparently great. The people had been greatly addicted to spirits. While the revenue would

suffer, it was feared that the habits of the people would not improve. It may, even now, be somewhat premature to assume finally, what the effects will be. But the testimony which was adduced last year to the general beneficial results of the new system remains unshaken, and has been confirmed by further evidence of the same character. Very few cases of illicit distilling or smuggling have been detected. The licensed holders of the spirit monopoly were, as described in para. 145 of my last Administration Report, the most influential persons in the Hill tracts. They were far from popular, and the inhabitants now rejoice at their absence. And as regards consumption in general, there is but one concurrent voice from every well-informed quarter, testifying to its having greatly decreased. On this point, there is only one opinion. From the highest to the lowest among the non-official, as well as the official classes, all attest this, that drinking has very much diminished.

Its moral advantages.

165. On the whole then, there seems solid ground for satisfaction in the results of the Sudder Distillery system, as already gained; and there is reason to believe that, notwithstanding the peculiar difficulties which have to be contended with in these Provinces, still the system will succeed, and prove as great a blessing to the people here, as it has proved elsewhere. Its extension into the Nagpore districts has, therefore, been again proposed. That the present system of farming the monopoly in these last named districts, does positive harm, seems beyond doubt. In former times there were tracts in these Provinces where the people were permitted to manufacture spirits free, no duty being levied at all. In these tracts the inhabitants were more temperate and less demoralized by the use of spirits than in adjacent tracts where the present system of the Nagpore districts prevailed. If this be true, then the Sudder Distillery system will, at least, be so much better than the Farming system; that the Administration will be free from the responsibility of doing actual harm, and directly tending to increase the total sum of moral depravity among the people. But there is no reason to believe that it will stop there. On the contrary, by weaning the majority of the quondam drinkers from habits of intemperance, it will raise the standard of public morality to a higher point than it ever stood at before, and pave the way for further advancement in the social scale of the mass of the population.

Its superiority over the Farming system.

166. In the Income Tax, there has been necessarily a decrease. The collections during the past official year amounted to Rs. 2,74,009, as compared with Rs. 4,00,055 in 1862-63. This falling off is owing partly to the reduction of 1 per cent. from the 3 per cent. duty, with effect from the 1st August 1863, and partly to the previous abolition of the duties on incomes below Rs. 500 per annum. This exempted about 20,000 persons from assessment.

Reduction of the Income Tax.

167. For the year ending 31st July 1863, the total final assessments amounted under—

Schedule	I.	to	Rs.	60,104	on 2,364	persons.
„	II.	„	„	1,39,975	„ 3,258	„
„	III.	„	„	678	„ 38	„
„	IV.	„	„	1,00,459	„ 1,165	„
			TOTAL	3,01,216	6,825	„

Some persons are assessed under more than one schedule. Deducting for this, the tax falls upon about 5,000 persons; 1,165 of these persons are either Government officials or pensioners, or holders of Government scrip. They come under Schedule IV., and pay ⅓rd of the whole amount assessed. The remainder are, with only a few exceptions, assessed under Schedules I. and II. Of the 5,066 persons assessed for the year ending 31st July 1863, 4,057 paid less than Rs. 50, 958 paid more than Rs. 50 and less than 400, 43 paid more than Rs. 400 and less than Rs. 1,000, only 8 persons paid more than Rs. 1,000. The average amount paid by each person assessed is Rs. 60. This appears to be the same as the average incidence of the tax in the North-Western Provinces, and it is also remarkable that the proportion of persons exempted from assessment by the abolition of the tax on incomes less than Rs. 500 per annum, is also the same in these Provinces as in the North-Western Provinces, viz. about 80 per cent.

Detailed incidence of the tax.

From the 1st August 1863—a reduction of 1 per cent. in the tax having been made—it follows that for the current year ending 31st July 1864, the assessment will amount to only about Rs. 2,25,000, with an average incidence on each of the 5,000 persons assessed of Rs. 45.

Future demand.

168. The Stamp revenue which rose from Rs. 2,62,469 (£26,246) in 1861-62 to Rs. 3,59,799 (£359,799), in 1862-63 has still further

increased to Rs. 3,77,878 (£37,787) in 1863-64. The supervision of the working of the Stamp Law is exercised by the Judicial Commissioner. Mr. Strachey issued a complete set of Rules on the subject during the year. One of their chief tendencies is to throw the vend as much as possible into the hands of non-official vendors. In 1862-63 only 42 per cent. of the revenue was derived from Stamps sold by non-official vendors. In 1863-64 the percentage rose to 75. There are now 658 non-official vendors, and only 57 official vendors. By the establishment of these non-official vendors, facilities for purchasing Stamps are brought more home to the people,—the more ignorant public become familiarized with the necessity of observing the Law. Evasion no doubt is still practised. But as it can, for the most part, affect only the revenue from Stamps under Schedule A., the loss of revenue from such evasion is probably not serious. As trade increases, however, the matter will become of greater moment. Recently Major F. L. Magniac, when on deputation to enquire into the working of the Abkaree system, was directed to investigate the working of the Stamp Law also. The result will prove beneficial. On the whole, this branch of revenue may be considered in tolerably flourishing condition.

Increase of Stamp Recipts.

Non-official vendors.

Section III.—Total Revenues.

169. The following abstract will show the actual Imperial revenues for 1863-64, as compared with those of 1862-63 :—

	1863-64.	1862-63.
Land Revenue	Rs. 52,76,513	Rs. 53,27,574
Abkaree	„ 7,27,539	„ 7,39,434
Customs Salt, &c.	„ 14,64,301	„ *13,74,566
Stamps	„ 3,77,878	„ 3,60,730
Income Tax	„ 2,74,009	„ 4,00,055
Forest Revenue	„ 79,582	„ 60,843
Miscellaneous	„ 1,95,359	„ 2,36,402
Total ..	Rs. 83,95,181	Rs. 84,99,604

* The revenue under this head was last year stated to be Rs. 14,26,062. This has been corrected,—there were some collections made on the Local line which belonged to the Imperial line ; there was also an item of above Rs. 11,000 included under this head, which belonged properly to Abkaree.

On the whole there has been a decrease of a little above a lakh of rupees; but as already said, there has been a reduction of one per cent. in the Income Tax, and the revenue under that head fell from 4 lakhs in 1862-63 to 2¼ lakhs in 1863 64. If we exclude Income Tax from the calculation it will be found that there has been a real increase, though small. The tendency to increase may, accordingly, be said to continue, and it may be considered that the revenues in these Provinces are flourishing.

CHAPTER IV.

EDUCATION.

170. In Chapter V. of my last Report, the establishment of the new scheme of Education throughout these Provinces was described. During the year under review, 1863-64, there has been steady, and, we may hope, solid progress. The various kinds of schools were stated last year to be,—

Various kinds of Schools.

1.—Zillah schools.
2.—Normal ditto.
3.—*Grant*-in-aid, or aided ditto.
4.—*Town* ditto.
5.—Village ditto.
6.—Female ditto.
7.—Indigenous ditto.
8.—Zemindaree ditto.

I shall briefly advert to each in order.

171. The Zillah schools maintained by Government, nine in number, have continued the same as last year; but then pupils have increased from 1,192 in 1862-63 to 1,478 in 1863-64. The cost per pupil has amounted to 23 rupees per annum, which is moderate. Among these, the best is the Saugor High School, which has been augmented from 272 to 356

The Zillah Schools.

pupils. The annual examinations show improved proficiency, while the cost has been diminished by above one-half.

The Normal Schools.

172. The Normal schools, maintained by Government for the training of village schoolmasters, are now six in number. Some 328 schoolmasters were trained in these institutions during the year, duly certificated, and sent forth to follow their profession in the interior of the country. It is estimated that the cost of training a master averages Rs. 57. There is no special object in extending these schools, inasmuch as they are kept up to a size sufficient to supply masters enough for the village schools as they are established, and no more.

Grants-in-aid.

173. The aided, or Grant-in-aid schools, have increased from six in 1862-63 to eight in 1863-64. The additional schools consist of one school belonging to the Church Missionary Society in the station of Jubbulpore (besides the one already belonging to the Society in the city of Jubbulpore), and one belonging to a committee of native gentlemen at Dumoh. Among these aided institutions is the well-known school belonging to the Free Church Mission at Nagpore. By the assistance of the grant, the Mission has been enabled this year to import a trained teacher from England. A further grant to obtain another teacher from home, and to build an additional school-house, has just been sanctioned. If this Institution shall prove as successful as its promoters hope, then Government may be spared the expense of establishing any College at Nagpore. The Bishop's school at Seetabuldee is progressing well: the trained master has arrived from England; the new and handsome school-house has been erected. The total of grants-in-aid during 1863-64 amounted to 8,760 rupees, (£876).

The Town Schools.

174. The Town schools, maintained by Government in the principal places in the interior of districts, have risen from 74 schools with 3,831 pupils in 1862-63, to 102 schools with 7,078 pupils in 1863-64. There are seventy boys on the average on each of these schools, which shows a good attendance. These are chiefly attended by the mercantile and industrial classes living in towns. Some of the upper class of landholders send their children there also. These young institutions have already thriven successfully. Indeed the advance made in this class of schools is probably the most important step in the Educational

progress of the year. In order to ensure the popularity of these institutions there has been appointed in every town a school committee consisting of the principal citizens.

The Village Schools.

175. The village schools, maintained by a cess levied from the landholders, have increased from 321 schools with 7,023 pupils in 1862-63, to 403 schools with 12,017 pupils in 1863-64. This increase is very satisfactory. These schools are attended chiefly by the agricultural class, who are excused the payment of fees, in consideration of the levy of the cess above mentioned. The fact that so many thousands of people connected with the land should be sending their sons to school, is highly satisfactory. By degrees these institutions will be the means of diffusing light among the landholding community.

The Female Schools.

176. The female schools have almost started into existence during the year under review. In 1862-63 there were only 5 of these schools with 57 pupils. There were in 1863-64 no less than 47 with 814 pupils. This may be the commencement of an important movement. These institutions are maintained by the cess mentioned in the preceding para.

General advance in Government Schools.

177. The above are the various kinds of schools maintained, more or less, from the public revenues. The total for the two years may be thus seen :—

	1862-63.	1863-64.	Increase in 1863-64.
Schools	427	575	148
Pupils	13,831	22,630	8,799

The increase in pupils is 63 per cent., which for one year is very considerable. Moreover, the progress is uniform in all classes of these Government schools, and in all parts of these Provinces.

The Indigenous Schools.

178. Besides these there are the indigenous private schools, which are maintained by individuals, but which submit to be inspected by Government officials, and receive some slight assistance. These could not be brought properly under supervision in 1862-63. But this has been more completely arranged in 1863-64. In the latter year the number stood

as below :—

Schools	..	..	..	406
Pupils	...	..	..	4,875

It is proposed that the assistance given should be on the capitation principle, that is, a reward on account of each pupil who may pass a certain examination.

The Zemindaree Schools.

179. In para. 175 of my last Report, it was mentioned that several of the chiefs in the eastern parts of these Provinces had agreed to support schools. At the end of 1863-64 there were 10 such schools, attended by 345 pupils.

Aggregate of Schools of all kinds.

180. The total number of schools deriving more or less of support from the State, or supported by private resources, were as follows for 1863-64 :—

	Schools.	Scholars.
Maintained or aided by Government.	577	22,733
Maintained by individuals but under inspection	416	5,220
TOTAL, ..	993	27,953

These numbers will doubtless increase fast, from year to year. But it must ever be remembered that the result, though it might at first sight appear considerable, is yet insignificant as compared with the requirements of the country. There are 40 cities and 17,991 villages in these Provinces; and how very small relatively to these is the total number of schools at present maintained, aided, or inspected by Government!—not more than one school to every 18 villages. Again, the population is nearly eight millions. How very small relatively to that is the total number of scholars!—not more than one to every 236 of the people.

Erection of School-houses.

181. Much has been done in the way of building school-houses during the year 1863 64. The Zillah schools, and the Normal schools, have all got buildings. For nearly all the town schools, buildings of a superior kind have been ordered or constructed. The village schools are all accommo-

dated in at least temporary buildings; and for many of these, new buildings are under construction.

Financial resources for Education.

182. The cost of the Educational directing and inspecting establishments, and of the schools and contingencies relating thereto, is defrayed from a Government grant, from the cess levied from the landholders, from fees paid by the pupils, from local funds, from private subscriptions. During 1863-64 the resources of the Department of Education may be stated thus :—

The Government Grant	Rs.	1,11,000
The Cess from the landholders ..	„	50,091
The School fees	„	8,404
The private subscriptions	„	51,000
TOTAL ..	Rs.	2,20,495
	or	£22,049

It is evident from the above that out of the total income half is contributed direct from the State revenue, the rest being made up by the people themselves, either by cesses, or fees, or subscriptions. These proportions appear to be satisfactory. The readiness with which the people in many places have subscribed, is an augury of good. In 1862-63 there were no less than 65 native gentlemen who contributed something to education. In 1863-64, again there were 59 native gentlemen who gave donations, varying from 50 to 3,000 rupees each.

The Book Depôts.

183. The establishment of Book Depôts was mentioned in my last Report. The sale of books to the people is fast increasing. In 1862-63 there were 13,600 books sold to the people; in 1863-64 the numbers thus sold amounted to Rs. 57,408, and the price realized amounted to Rs. 11,609 or £1,170. This is satisfactory.

The Central Museum.

184. The building for the Central Museum at Nagpore has been completed in handsome style. The institution was formally opened in April last. It is already filled with articles of interest. A Branch Antiquarian and Scientific Society has been formed.

185. As a mark of the appreciation with which natives in some places regard the efforts made in the cause of education by the Civil

Officers. I may mention that at Bhundara they set up a library and reading-room in memory of Mr. Master, the Deputy Commissioner, and at Chanda in memory of Major Crichton. These memorials were set on foot after the departure of those Officers from their respective stations.

186. A native newspaper, published in three vernaculars, Mahrattee, Oordoo, and Hindee, is issued monthly by the Educational department.

Languages taught in the Schools.

187. As mentioned in my last Report, the languages taught are chiefly Mahrattee, Oordoo, and Hindee, with a little Teloogoo and Oorya. The study of English is slightly advancing, the numbers reading that language in Government schools having increased from 592 in 1862-63 to 715 in 1863-64. This constitutes as yet but a small proportion of the aggregate of pupils.

188. The enforcement of a moderate Educational test for candidates for public employ is generally considered to have afforded some stimulus to learning.

Co-operation of the Civil Officers on education.

189. The plan of entrusting the administration of all schools in the interior of districts to the ordinary civil authorities, subject to the inspection and supervision of the Educational officers, is admitted on all hands to have worked well, by giving confidence to the people, and by affording influential encouragement to the new department. The manner in which the Civil officers, generally, have co-operated in the interest of education, redounds to their credit.

190. In the Northern districts of these Provinces, the impression made by education on the popular mind is no doubt considerable. In the Southern, or Nagpore districts, there is a slight awakening, but not much more as yet. In the Eastern districts there is only a glimmering of light.

CHAPTER V.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Various classes of Public Works.

191. The various classes of Public Works will be treated in the following order :—

I.—Military Buildings.
II.—Civil Buildings.
III.—Communications, Roads, and Bridges.
IV.—Railways and Tramways.
V.—Canals and Irrigation.
VI.—Navigation Works.
VII.—Miscellaneous and Municipal Works.

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SECTION I.—MILITARY BUILDINGS.

Establishment of the Sanitarium at Mohtoor.

192. The projected Sanitarium on the Mohtoor Hills, which was mentioned in previous reports, has, during the year under review, become an accomplished fact. The following public buildings have been constructed there, at an aggregate cost of Rs. 25,3[illegible]6, or £2,561 12[illegible]:—

Barrack for 28 men.	Temporary jail for one hundred prisoners.
Officer's quarters.	Small church, dispensary, well, and garden.
Hospital.	
Hutting and other accommodation for one company of Sappers.	

These are exclusive of private buildings.

Detachment of Troops stationed there.

193. In April last a detatchment of 25 men of all ranks from Her Majesty's 1st (Royal) Regiment at Kamptee, was sent to Mohtoor, where they now are in the full enjoyment of the Hill climate. Besides these, there is is Engineer officer, and officer of sappers and miners and a medical

officer resident on the Hill. There have been several visitors during the year. The station roads are, for the most part, formed. There is a large number of prisoners to assist in the local works of the station. Lines for them have been completed. There is also a small public garden, with tea and coffee plants. Progress has also been made with the road leading from the neighbouring station of Chindwara to the sanitarium.

Eligibility of the Puchmurree Hill.

194. In para. 189 of my last Report, I described generally the advantages possessed by the Puchmurree Hill for the establishment of a sanitarium for the benefit of the Military stations of Saugor and Jubbulpore, and of the stations in the valley of the Nerbudda. During the year under report, a proposal has been submitted for the erection of a barrack on this Hill.

Quarters for married soldiers at Kamptee.

195. Progress has been made during the year with the new quarters for married soldiers, Artillery and Infantry, at Kamptee. There are new quarters completed, or under construction, for 32 families.

Drainage near barracks at Jubbulpore.

196. The drainage of the insalubrious swamps near the barracks at Jubbulpore has been advanced during the year, and is now nearly complete.

Plan for barracks at Saugor.

197. At Saugor it has not been possible to commence the erection of the new barracks this last year, owing to various pending questions regarding the general arrangement of sites for Military buildings at that station. These questions are now in train for disposal, and it is hoped that a real commencement may, in the current year, be made.

Section II.—Civil Buildings.

193. The Court Houses at the Head Quarters of districts are, for the most part, complete in these Provinces. The Court House rented for the Deputy Commissioner of Raepore, has now been purchased for the Court of the Commissioner of Chutteesgurh, and a new Court house is being built for the Deputy Commissioner. A similar Court house for the Deputy Commissioner of Dumoh has been ordered, but is not yet finished. Efforts have been made to provide suitable Court Houses for the Native Tehseeldars or Sub-collectors, in the interior of districts. Of the ten Court Houses mentioned in para. 191 of my last Report, as having been commenced, several have been either completed, or much advanced during the year. The site for the new Head Quarters of the Wurdah district has been fixed near the Railway station. Preparations are being made for the erection of Court Houses and other Civil buildings, on that spot.

Erection of Civil Court Houses.

199. The standard plans and estimates for the Police buildings throughout these Provinces have been submitted to Government. New Lines for the men have been built at Jubbulpore and Raepore. Similar Lines have been ordered at Belaspore, at Nursingpore, and other stations.

Police buildings.

200. Of thirteen Caravanserais for the accommodation of travellers, mentioned in para. 193 of my last Report, as having been commenced at various points on the High Roads, several have been completed in part, so as to be open for the reception of travellers. It is intended to erect Caravanserais on a large scale; and Staging bungalows at all the Railway stations in these Provinces attached to the Caravanserais. Plans have been formed for large enclosures with suitable provisions of shade and water, to accommodate the large native traffic which will resort to these stations as soon as the Railway shall be open. These buildings have already been ordered at stations, and funds allotted therefore.

Caravanserais.

201. As already mentioned in the Chapter on Jails, two Central Jails have been commenced at Nagpore and Raepore; a Lunatic Asylum building has been constructed at Nagpore.

Central Jails.

202. In the Educational department, the handsome School-house and also the Museum building at Nagpore have been completed; the large School-house at Saugor is under construction. The other school-houses have been mentioned in Chapter IV., on Education.

School buildings.

203. The Church at Nagpore was so far completed last year so as to be open for Divine Service. Various additions, so as to render it sufficiently complete, have been sanctioned. New Churches have been commenced at Hoshungabad, Chindwara, Bhundara, and Raepore. The new Cemetery and Chapel at Nagpore have been completed.

New Churches under construction.

Section III.—Communications, Roads and Bridges.

204. The principal lines of road under construction in these Provinces have been described in my two previous Reports. I have now to note briefly the progress made on each of them during the year.

205. The Northern Road is in three Executive Divisions: the 1st division extends from the Khupra Pass near Mirzapore to Jubbulpore, the roads having been previously made and metalled. The works now in progress chiefly consist of bridges over streams, which had been left unbridged. Of these, the principal is the bridge over the Tonse river near Rewa, which will have 5 arches of 50 feet span. The foundation had to be dug very deep, but this difficulty has been partly overcome, and the piers are well advanced. Another bridge over the Kutnée river near Jubbulpore will have 5 arches of 45 span; this is half done Another bridge, just

Bridges on the Road from Mirzapore to Jubbulpore.

completed, has 3 arches of 40 feet span. In my last Report, it was mentioned that some 146 streams on this road still remain to be bridged. That number has been this time somewhat diminished; but it is still very great, and the unbridged streams continue to impede traffic in the rainy season.

Road from Jubbulpore to Nagpore.

206. The 2nd and 3rd Divisions of the Northern Road extend from Jubbulpore to Nagpore. This portion of the road is 157 miles in length. As it runs right athwart the whole Sautpoora Range, it encounters considerable engineering difficulties. It is now about two-thirds finished, and ought to be nearly complete in another year. The principal work completed within the year is the Wynegunga bridge, having 12 arches of 50 feet span, all now completed. The bridge over the Kunhan river, having 12 arches of 50 feet span, is also a serious undertaking,—having its foundations in deep sand overlying rock. This work is about half finished. Some 55 bridges of lesser size have been commenced or constructed within the year. Of the three hill Passes which this road surmounts, the Sibba Pass near Jubbulpore is finished, the Pass near the Wynegunga is all but complete, the Korai Pass near Nagpore has been surveyed and planned, and will be operated upon next year.

Bridges over the Wynegunga and Kunhan rivers.

Three hill Passes surmounted.

The Southern Road.

207. The Southern Road, running from Nagpore southward down the valley of the Wurdah, has no great engineering works in progress like those of the preceding roads. But some 163 miles of road-way have been under operations during the year, the work chiefly consisting of bridges and metalling.

The Eastern Road.

208. The Eastern Road, running from Nagpore towards Chutteesgurh, has been proceeded with; some 75 miles having been under operations during the year.

The North-West Road.

209. The North-West Road, running from Nagpore in the direction of the Nerbudda valley, has not been proceeded with during the year, as our available means did not admit of it. Some progress has, however, been made with the branch of this road leading to Chindwara.

Road from Saugor to Nursingpore.

210. The question of connecting the important station of Saugor with the Railway near the Nerbudda has been taken up in earnest during this year. This can be effected by a road either from Saugor to Jubbulpore, or from Saugor to a point near Nursingpore. Both are very important; but after full consideration, the Supreme Government have given the precedence to the latter. The surveys have accordingly been completed during the year, and estimates are being prepared.

Branch Road in the Wurdah Valley.

211. The great importance of branch roads in the Wurdah valley, to connect the various productive tracts with the several Railway stations, has been brought prominently to notice during the year. It has been ascertained that nine such roads are required, at an aggregate length of 305 miles. Some of these have been surveyed and commenced. The length surveyed amounts to 105 miles, and that commenced to 15 miles.

District Branch Roads.

212. It is difficult to state succinctly all the minor road works of construction, improvement, or repair, executed by the Civil officers. The principal of these have been executed in the districts of Seonee, Chindwara, Baitool, Wurdah, and Bhundara.

Total operations in road-making.

213. The total operations in road making during the year may be thus epitomized. In para. 206 of the Report for 1862-63, the then condition of the four great lines of roads under the Department of Public Works was shown exclusive of the Jubbulpore and Mirzapore lines. As compared with that year, the condition of these roads in the corresponding period of 1863-64 may be seen thus:—

		May 1863.	May 1864.
1.—Completed in all respects ..	miles	112	143
2.—Opened for traffic, though not quite completed	„	123	163
3.—Under construction	„	163	127
4.—Surveyed but not commenced ..	„	162	134
5.—Not yet surveyed	„	166	164
TOTAL ..	„	734	741

214. Thus during 1863-64 some 36 miles, previously opened for traffic, have been completed; some 42 miles, previously under construction, have been opened for traffic; some 37 miles, previously surveyed, have been put in progress; some 7 miles have been surveyed. Besides the above, there is the line from Saugor to the Valley of the Nerbudda, of which 68 miles have been surveyed during this season. The total mileage therefore shown in this para., as under the operations of the year, amounts to 406 miles, on 190 miles of which total, work has progressed one stage.

215. The principal road works of the Local committees during the year may be represented thus,—Completed 10 miles; under construction 45 miles; surveyed 105 miles: the total mileage, as shown in this para., amounts to 160 miles.

216. The total mileage shown in the two preceding paras. gives 566 miles as having been under regular operations during the year 1863-64, exclusive of the many hundreds of miles which are more or less improved and repaired by the Local committees.

Total expenditure on roads.

217. The expenditure on roads, exclusive of all establishments, during the year amounts to Rs. 9,98,833, or £99,883 in the Public Works Department, and by the Local committees to Rs. 2,25,343, or £22,534; in all Rs. 12,24,176, or £122,417.

The Road Cess.

218. That most useful Cess of one per cent. on the land revenue, levied from the landholders, has, with the sanction of the Viceroy, been increased to two per cent. This will raise the income at the disposal of the Civil officers for the improvement of the district roads from 55,000 rupees per annum to 110,000 rupees, or £11,000.

Section IV.—Railways and Tramways.

213. In my previous Reports, the several lines of Railway in these Provinces have been described. They are,—1*st*, the main line from Bombay to Jubbulpore; 2*nd*, the branch to Nagpore; 3*rd*, the line from Jubbulpore to Allahabad. The two first belong to the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company, and the third to the East India Railway Company.

The several Lines of Railway.

220. The main line from Bombay to Jubbulpore now enters these Provinces at Boorhanpore in Nimar, from which point to Jubbulpore the distance is 303 miles. The earth-work throughout is nearly done. The masonry work is about half done. The three largest viaducts are those of the Nerbudda and the Sher and the Towah rivers. All are in progress, and with the latter, especially, creditable exertions have been made by the contractors. But the bridges over two large streams (the Doodye and the Sukur) are only commenced. There has generally been felt a want of labor and carriage throughout the line. And in some parts, such as the wilder portions of Nimar, the difficulties have really been formidable. The line may, it is thought, be opened to Jubbulpore by 1867. But the attainment of this result appears to depend on some decided improvement being effected in the arrangements for the Permanent Way. At present there is great delay apprehended in this matter The Deputy Consulting Engineer has recommended that Permanent Way materials, enough for at least 40 or 50 miles, be shipped from England direct to Calcutta. It will be easier to transport these to Jubbulpore from Calcutta than from Bombay. They could be sent by rail or river to Mirzapore, and thence by cart to Jubbulpore, by a good road and through a country where a fair amount of carriage is obtainable. Having myself seen the advantages of this route for the materiel for the Jubbulpore and Mirzapore line, I advocate strongly that this route be adopted for the materiel of at least a portion of the line from Jubbulpore towards Bombay.

The main line to Jubbulpore from Bombay.

221. The line from Jubbulpore to Allahabad is 225 miles in length. The progress, both in respect to earthwork and masonry, is good; and, as already stated, the arrangements for the transport of materiel are satisfactory.

Line from Jubbulpore to Allahabad.

222. The joint Terminal Station for the two lines, and the two Railway Companies, is at Jubbulpore. There has been considerable difficulty in selecting such a fitting site for this station as should meet all the requirements, Military, Local, and Commercial, of the place. The question is still awaiting the result of the deliberations of a committee, specially appointed for the purpose.

Terminal station at Jubbulpore.

223. The Nagpore Branch of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway is 242½ miles in length. Of this only 70 miles (that from the Wurdah river to Nagpore) are within the Central Provinces. At present, the line is open from Bhosawul to Mulkapore, a distance of 29½ miles, leaving a distance of 212 miles to Nagpore. It is expected, however, that the line will shortly be open to Sheagaon, 33 miles further, which will reduce the distance to Nagpore down to 179 miles.

The Railway to Nagpore.

224. In respect to earthwork and masonry, in the section from the Wurdah to Nagpore, the progress made is satisfactory; nearly all the former and half the latter are done. The three principal viaducts on this section, over the rivers Wurdah, Dam Bhore, and Wunna, are advancing towards completion. These are reported to be very creditable structures. It is understood that efforts are being concentrated on the Berar section of line Trans-Wurdah from Nagpore, and this may prevent the speedy completion of the section Cis-Wurdah. Still, so far as the construction of the line goes, there is nothing apparently to prevent speedy completion. But in respect to the Permanent Way, great delays and difficulties are apprehended throughout the unfinished portion of the line, namely, the 179 miles abovementioned. The matter is becoming one of serious moment, and unless some marked improvement can be effected, the opening of the line to Nagpore will be indefinitely delayed. When my last Report was written, it was expected that the line would be opened to Oomraotee in 1864, and to Nagpore in 1865. Since then, however, the actual opening of the line has not advanced much, prac-

Delays in opening it.

tically, and the prospect of completion seems no nearer. The matter is now arriving at a stage which will demand serious consideration.

225. Meanwhile, the Rail is open only to Mulkapore, distant 212 miles from Nagpore. To that point then, the various streams of traffic have been converging for many months past. It would appear that the accumulation of goods' traffic has been so great, that the Railway has been unable to meet the requirements made on it. The disappointment of those who despatch, and who receive goods coming or going, has been great, and frequent. I do not undertake to say whether the arrangements for the goods' traffic are defective or not, I merely state the fact of the delays and disappointments, as an additional reason for expediting the completion of the Railway to Nagpore. Again, the roads between Nagpore and Mulkapore are very imperfect, and travellers suffer much trouble and inconvenience. Had it not been for the early prospect of the rail, these roads might have been improved. If this prospect be *definitely* postponed, the improvement of this particular road might be worthy of immediate consideration. At present, this route has neither the advantage of a good road nor of a Railway.

Terminal Station at Nagpore.

226. The Terminal Station of the Railway at Nagpore has been commenced. It is situate between the Seetabuldee Fort and the city of Nagpore, on a centrical and commanding site, and is close to Military protection. The first stone was laid on the 7th July 1864.

Proposed extension to Kamptee.

227. During this last year, I have submitted a detailed Report to the Supreme Government, recommending that an extension of the Railway be carried on from Nagpore to Kamptee, a distance of about eight miles. The advantages of such a measure to the large Military station of Kamptee; the convenience to be hereby secured to Military arrangements; the saving in transport of Military stores, are all evident. The existing goods' traffic in this quarter has been for the last two years ascertained by actual enumeration. It is known now to amount to 40,000 tons per annum. And in the event of the Railway Terminus at Kamptee being met by a Tramway from the Eastern districts, there are certain data for estimating the traffic at upwards of sixty thousand tons per annum. It is calculated that there would be a passenger traffic of several hundreds of persons in a day. Thus the extension would probably prove fairly remunerative to the Company. Again, by touch-

ing Kamptee, the Rail would meet the point where the best portion of the large traffic from the Eastern districts passes, and the point whence a Tramway, or any cheap Railway, from Nagpore eastward, could most conveniently commence.

Branch Roads to the various Railway stations.

223. The arrangements which have been made to commence local roads, running from the most productive tracts, to the several Railway Stations, to construct caravanserais, halting places, and other accommodation for passengers and goods' traffic at those stations, have been already mentioned in the preceding sections of this Chapter.

Project of Tramway from Nagpore to Eastern Districts.

224. In para. 223 of my last Report, it was stated that the most promising project for a Tramway, or cheap Railway, in these Provinces is, that which would by these means connect Nagpore with Chutteesgurh, and other districts to the East. In October last, I submitted a detailed Report to Government on this subject It was shown that such a Tramway, or cheap Railway, would have to be about 183 miles in length;—without encountering any extraordinary engineering difficulties; that it should be worked by locomotive, rather than by bullock power; and that the probable cost would be, on data shown, about Rs. 32,512, or £3,254 per mile; or about Rs. 5,955,156, or £595,513 in all. The area which would supply traffic for such a road contains about 2¾ millions of population, and pays to Government revenues amounting to 14½ lakhs of rupees, or £141,500 per annum. Considerable pains were taken, by actual enumeration carried on through many months, to ascertain the amount of traffic which is now running over that line of country, and which would be attracted to such a Tramway. These figures were given in full detail, both for imports and exports, and the aggregate was found to amount to 62,931 tons per annum Such is the traffic now existing, which is considerable, and which would, of course, be much increased if the means of communication were to be decidedly improved. It is supposed that a Tramway Company could charge at least ¾ of an anna, or 1¼ anna per ton per mile, which would be much lower than the present rates of country land carriage, which are known to range from 2 annas to 3 annas per ton per mile.

Probable cost.

Statistics of Traffic by that route.

225. Upon the receipt of this Report, the Government of India were pleased to declare, that although they will not undertake such

a work themselves, they will be prepared to accord all reasonable support to Capitalists desirous of executing it in a manner that shall meet their approval.

231. The above project is irrespective of any improved communication between Nagpore and the large Military Cantonment of Kamptee. The question of the extension of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway from Nagpore, its terminus, to Kamptee, has been submitted by me to the Government of India in a separate Report.

Section V.—Canals and Irrigation.

232. In my last Report, paras. 229 to 233, were mentioned the results of the general enquiries which had been made on the subject of irrigation in the Nagpore country especially. These enquiries have been prosecuted during the year.

The Kunhan Reservoir Project.

233. In paras. 226 to 231 of my last Report, a sketch was given of a project for forming an enormous reservoir, by damming up the water of the Kunhan river at a point where it debouches from the Sautpoora Hills north of Nagpore; whereby water could be stored enough to supply the navigable channel of the Wurdah, above its junction, with the Godavery; and also for the irrigation of the rich cotton-producing valley of the Wurdah. But the cost of this project would be very great.

The Pench Reservoir Project.

234. Further enquiry has shown that a Reservoir could be similarly formed, by damming up the waters of the Pench River at a point where it debouches from the Hills north of Nagpore. From this, water could be conducted by a canal to the Wynegunga river, and thence by the chan-

nel of that river down to the Godavery. Thus, water would be obtained for the navigation of the Godavery during the dry months, and also for the irrigation of the rich plains near Nagpore. But as the Wynegunga joins the Godavery below the junction of the Wurdah, this water would not be available for the Wurdah at all. The Pench project, though large and important, would be more practicable, and less expensive, than that of the Kunhan.

235. Similar enquiries have been made in the Upper Valley of the Wyngeunga; and it is believed that sites for reservoirs can be found there also.

Various Irrigation Projects.

236. A good site for a lesser kind of reservoir has been found in the Hills, which lie to the north of the cotton growing tracts of the Wurdah valley. Also a project has been formed for the storage of water near Seonee (half way between Jubbulpore and Nagpore), whereby extensive irrigation could be obtained.

General result of enquiry.

237. I have myself visited all these sites; but the professional enquiry has been conducted by Mr. S. Hanna, whom I mentioned, in my last Report, as a gentleman who had gained considerable experience in the Canal Department of the Punjab. The more enquiry proceeds, the more does the conviction gain ground that nature has afforded unusual facilities for extensive and beneficial irrigation in the Nagpore country.

Section VI.—Navigation Works.

Godavery Navigation works.

238. The merits of the Godavery Navigation project were explained in Chapter IX. of my last Report. It was also stated that operations would be confined for the present to the first and second barriers. During the year under review, the works have been proceeded with under the supervision of Captain Haig, the Superintending Engineer.

Works at the first barrier.

239. At the first barrier, the navigation is to be carried round the belt of rocks (which impede the natural channel of the river) by means of a canal 25 miles in length; near the head of this canal there is to be an "anicut," or dam, across the river, with locks, whereby the boats will be conducted into the canal At the tail of the canal there will again be locks whereby the boats will re-enter the river. By these locks, at the head and at the tail of the canal, a fall at the barrier of 70 feet will be overcome. The plans and estimates for these works have been submitted to the Supreme Government. The lowest cost, at which the difficulties of this barrier can be surmounted, will amount to 16 lakhs* of rupees, or £160,000.

Progress made.

240. During the year under review, considerable progress has been made with these works; the anicut is far advanced; the canal is also partly excavated. The locks remain to be commenced.

Project for the second barrier.

241. At the second barrier, the project has at various times undergone modification. But Captain Haig has himself finally examined the place, and has recently sent in his plans and estimates. It is now proposed to construct an anicut across the stream to raise the level of the water above the anicut, so as to render the navigation thus far safe to overcome the fall at the barrier, by one set of locks, and to conduct the navigation into the navigable channel below the anicut. These works will cost 11½ lakhs of rupees. The plans and estimates have been submitted to the Supreme Government; and we hope that the operations may be commenced during the next working season.

General result of the year's operations.

242. This is the first year during which the Godavery works have been under the control of this Administration. During the year a decision has been had on the manner in which the navigation works are to be prosecuted. Rs. 4,29,617, or £42,961 14s., have been expended on the works (exclusive of all establishments) The plans and estimates for the two first barriers have been submitted. The various Officers and establishments have been admitted to the Indian Public Works Department; and the

* This is somewhat more than the sum set down in para. 111. of my Godavery Report. At that time 12 lakhs was the sum calculated.

Engineers have been allowed as much money as they could beneficially spend.

213. But we should never forget the obligations which these Provinces owe to the Madras Government, under whom this noble project, originated by Sir Arthur Cotton, was first commenced and practically advocated.

Projected Canal near the River Mahanuddy.

214. In my last Report, paras. 278 to 295, I explained the merits of a project for a canal along the banks of the River Mahanuddy, whereby navigation might be conducted past the dangerous section of the river. I have since submitted a detailed Report on this river, and on the countries which are watered and drained by it, with special reference to this project, together with revised returns of all the traffic in that quarter. The aggregate bulk of that traffic is shown to amount to 57,427 tons per annum. This report has been referred to the Orissa Irrigation Company.

Section VII.—Miscellaneous and Municipal Works.

215. The works under this category consist of public improvements, carried out by the various Local committees. Of these, some of the principal may be briefly noticed.

Municipal works at the various Towns and Cities.

216. At Nagpore, the public gardens are now finished. The excavations of the lake near the city have been proceeded with. The new streets and market places inside the city have been completed. At Kamptee, an artificial lake and public gardens have been commenced. At Hingunghat, the new city, with its streets, squares, wells and tanks, is advancing. At Bhundara, a new market place is being constructed. At Raepore, a large market place is under construction, and the drainage works have been commenced. At Seonee, also, a market place, with square and a large tank, are far advanced. At Jubbulpore, the new streets and squares are nearly finished. At Saugor, progress has been made with the public gardens near the lake. &c.

SECTION VIII.—TOTAL OF PUBLIC WORKS.

247. This Chapter may conclude with the following abstract of expenditure of all kinds on Public Works during the past two years :—

		Military Works.	Civil Works.	Roads.	Navigation Works.	Establishments	Advances for Stock.	Total Expenditure.	Local Works.	Grand Total Expenditure.
1862-63	From the year's Budget Grant... Rs	1,36,575	1,12,892	7,93,928	..	3,54,157	2,06,910	16,04,462	4,97,309	21,01,771
	£	13,657	11,289	79,393	..	35,416	20,691	160,446	49,731	210,177
	From the One per Cent Income Tax Grant. Rs	35,567	11,529	99,825	..	..	..	1,66,621	..	1,66,621
	£	5,527	1,153	9,982	..	..	..	16,662	..	16,662
	TOTAL ... Rs	1,91,842	1,24,421	8,93,753	..	3,54,157	2,06,910	17,71,083	4,97,309	22,68,302
	£	19,184	12,442	89,375	..	35,416	20,691	177,108	49,731	226,839
1863-64	From the year's Budget Grant. Rs	2,73,701	1,25,578	8,29,333	5,58,000	4,73,229	70,000	23,29,841	5,10,146	28,39,987
	£	27,370	12,558	82,933	55,800	47,323	7,000	232,984	51,014	283,998
	From the One per Cent Income Tax Grant. Rs	..	7,500	1,67,500	..	..	..	1,75,000	..	1,75,000
	£	..	750	16,750	..	..	..	17,500	..	17,500
	TOTAL ... Rs	2,73,701	1,33,078	9,96,833	5,58,000	4,73,229	70,000	25,04,841	5,10,146	30,14,987
	£	27,370	13,308	99,683	55,800	47,323	7,000	256,484	51,014	301,498

For the current year, 1864 65, the Imperial Budget allotment amounts to Rs. 29,50,000 (£295,000). To this is to be added the budgetted amount of Local Fund Expenditure, Rs. 3,80,216, or £38,021. The aggregate will then amount to Rs. 33,30,216, or £333,021.

CHAPTER VI.

POST OFFICE.

248. THE only change affecting these Provinces, which has occurred within the year, has been the transfer of the English Mail despatch between Calcutta and Bombay from the Nagpore line to the Indôre line. Formerly, the Mail was despatched from Calcutta to Bombay viâ Mirzapore, Jubbulpore, and Nagpore. It is now despatched viâ Agra and Indore. This change is mainly owing to the extended length of Railway communication; and thereby a saving of 12 hours, in the time occupied in transit, has been effected: the time being between Calcutta and Bombay by the former route 5 days and 22 hours: by the latter route 5 days and 10 hours.

Route for the Mail between Calcutta and Bombay.

249. During the year the only question which has arisen, in connection with the Postal line in these Provinces, has had regard to the Postal communications both from Nagpore and from the Eastern Coast to the various points on the Godavery. Improved communications are here necessary. And the subject is the more important, in consideration of the Godavery navigation works having been placed under this Administration. It has been proposed to the Director General of Post Offices that, in order to strengthen the Godavery Postal lines, it might be expedient to amalgamate with them the present Postal line to Hyderabad, which, from a point 100 miles south of Nagpore, runs through a very wild country, without any intermediate stations of importance. If this proposal be acted upon, then, instead of one long Postal line performing comparatively little service between Nagpore and Hyderabad, and very imperfect arrangements down the Godavery, there would be one strong line down the Godavery, which would proceed to Hyderabad by Wurungul: the Godavery service would be performed, and the delay in transit between Nagpore and Hyderabad would be slight.

Postal Line on the Godavery.

250. In para. 250 of last year's Report, it was stated, that the subject of bringing the receipt and delivery of letters in the interior of districts under the control of the Post Office Department was under consideration. During the year a decision was come to adverse to the measure. The subject has therefore been disposed of otherwise. Measures have been taken for the establishment of a District Post Office at each Police Station House, and at each Sudder station. The general Rules of the Post Office Department have been adopted. The Nazir of the District Court House is "the Officer in charge of the District Post." The Police writers at Station houses are the District Post Masters; and at each District Post Office there is a Delivery peon for the postal sub-division of the district, which correspond with the Police limits of the Station House. Dak runners between the Sudder station and the Station Houses in the interior existed before. It has further been arranged to establish District Post Offices, when desired by the inhabitants, in the larger towns in the interior of districts, which may be on the Postal rates, and in which no Station Houses may be established. The Police Officers perform the duties of Inspectors of District Post Offices, and Deputy Commissioners are responsible for the efficiency of the arrangements. By these means, it is hoped that Postal facilities may be placed within reach of all classes of the community.

Post in the interior of the various districts.

CHAPTER VII.

ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH.

251. Much progress has been made during the year in the renewal of the line of Telegraph Posts between Mirzapore, Jubbulpore, and Nagpore. Iron standards, or posts of a superior kind, with insulators and other scientific fittings, have been obtained from Europe. These have been fixed over a

Repair of the Line between Mirzapore and Nagpore.

distance of 192 miles. There still remain about 220 miles, over which the old inefficient line requires renewal.

And between Nagpore and the Godavery.

252. For the line between Nagpore and Chanda, iron standards are shortly expected; and the line between Chanda and Sironcha will undergo extensive repairs during the next cold season.

New Line on the Godavery.

253. In para. 252 of my last Report, there was mentioned the necessity of Telegraphic communication with Doomagoodium, the Head Quarters of the Godavery Navigation Works. This has now been sanctioned by the Supreme Government, and will be effected by constructing a line from Sironcha to Doomagoodium, a distance of 152 miles. Sironcha is already a station on the main line of telegraphic communication between Nagpore and Hyderabad.

Want of telegraphic communication with Saugor.

254. The want of telegraphic communication with Saugor—so important a station in a military and political point of view—continues to be felt. The project of effecting this, by running a line from Jubbulpore to Saugor, has been approved, but the Electric Telegraph Department has not yet been able to give effect to it.

CHAPTER VIII

MARINE AND NAVIGATION.

255. In my last Report, under the head of Marine and Navigation, I stated briefly the main points of the discussion respecting the Godavery and Mahanuddy rivers. Since then these matters have, so far as this Administration is concerned, passed out of the scope of discussion, and have entered that of practice and execution. I have

therefore mentioned what there was to be said for this year in the Chapter on Public Works, and this leaves but little to be inserted in this Chapter.

The Flotilla on the Godavery river.

256. The small Flotilla on the Godavery, described in my Report for 1861-62, is still kept up. It consists of six steamers. These vessels are at present most useful in conveying officials, work people, stores, and materiel for the navigation works in progress. They are almost the sole means of communication which we possess as yet in that quarter, and they are indispensable for the conduct of operations. But when the works are finished, vessels of a different build and calibre will be required for the future navigation of the river.

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CHAPTER IX.

FINANCIAL.

257. THE prescribed form of Financial Statement will be found appended to this Report. It is prepared by the Deputy Auditor and Accountant General, and the following remarks will follow the order of headings into which the receipts and disbursements are classified.

Aggregate receipts of 1863-64.

258. The total receipts of Imperial Revenue during the year 1863-64, are set down at Rs. 85,29,478 (£852,948). In 1862-63 the amount stood at Rs. 84,42,274 (£844,227). This will be found to agree generally with what is stated in para. 169 of this Report to be the total revenues of these Provinces. There is this difference between the Financial and Revenue Returns of the year's income, that in the former all monies, whether paid in on account of the year's demand, or in antici-

pation of the demand of the following year, are credited in the accounts as collected. Whereas in the Revenue Returns, only collections falling due or overdue within the year are entered. The receipts under X., Law and Justice, and XI., Police, aggregating Rs. 31,276 in the Financial Statement, do not moreover enter into the Revenue Returns. This will account for the apparent discrepancy between the two Statements.

259. Heading I. to VI. and XV. of the receipts, having already been fully noticed in Chapter III. on *Revenue*, require no further remark here.

260. The receipts under Post Office, heading VIII., and Electric Telegraph, IX., are stated at Rs. 1,03,362. These departments are administered on an Imperial plan, and beyond the notice of them, already recorded in Chapters VI. and VII., further remark here seems unnecessary.

261. The remaining headings of Imperial Revenue are either blank, or require no particular notice.

Public Debt Receipts.

262. Under heading XVII., Public Debt, the only item to be mentioned is No. 5, Local Funds. The collections under this head amount to Rs. 10,09,860, and includes receipts on account of the 1 per Cent. Road Cess. With the sanction of the Supreme Government, this Cess will, for the future, be raised to 2 per cent. on the Land Revenue. Further, it includes collections at the Public Ferries, Rent and sales of Nuzzool property, and the like; also the City Octroi, raised for the purposes of Municipal Police and local improvement. Notice of the administration of these funds will be found in Chapter V., Public Works.

Expenditure of 1863-64.

263. The total Disbursements shown in the Statement amount to Rs. 47,52,970 (£475,297); but this does not include charges on account of (C) Army, (D) Navy, and (E) Works of Internal Improvement and Public Convenience. The operations of the year coming under this last heading will be found in Chapter V., Public Works; the expenditure amounted to Rs.

Political charges.

264. In the above aggregate, the expenditure on account of Allowances and Assessment under Treaties and Engagements; Allowances to District and Village Officers; Miscellaneous; and Superannuation and Retired

Allowances and Gratuities for Charitable and other purposes,—amount to Rs. 11,26,705. This stands at about the same amount for last year, if we exclude arrears. Some prospective reduction in this head of expenditure may be looked for, consequent on sanction of Government having been received to the commutation to a simple cash payment, on a liberal scale, of a large class of these Political pensions.

Civil charges.

265. Deducting this amount from the above general aggregate expenditure, there remains Rs. 36,26,265 (£362,626) as the regular charge of the Civil Administration for the year 1863-64. There is an apparent increase over last year's charges, but it is of a temporary character, being on account of increased settlement charges, the importance of progressing which, to an early completion, will be found noticed in Chapter IV. of this Report. There has also been an increased grant for Education, and the arrear charges are heavy. Some noticeable decrease will appear under other headings. The Police charges only amounted to Rs. 9,66,848, against Rs. 10,44,832 in the previous year. This was owing to reduction in the mounted branch of the Force. But sanction has recently been given to an increase of a rupee per mensem to the lowest grade of Constables, a measure which was rendered necessary by the general rise in prices and wages; and a proportion for a further increase to Police expenditure is now before Government, owing to the necessity for a revision of the Police Establishments; but the total expenditure will even then be within the limit of 11¼ lakhs, originally sanctioned for these Provinces. The above stated expenditure for Police does not include the cost of Municipal Police, which is included in the item (Rs. 9,84,646) of Local Funds under Public Debit; as this section of the Police is paid from those Funds.

Offices of Account & Audit.

266. The Office of Deputy Auditor and Accountant General continues to afford much advantage to the general Administration; and the pre-audit conducted by the Civil Pay Master at Allahabad, noticed in my last Report as involving delay and frequent inconvenience, has since much improved on the whole.

Bank of Bengal Branch.

267. The Branch Agency of the Bank of Bengal established at Nagpore continues to fulfil the expectations formed of it, in an administrative point of view; but it has not yet produced any marked effect upon trade.

Paper Currency Circle.

268. Since my last Report, a Circle of Paper Currency has been formed for these Provinces under orders from the Financial Department of the Supreme Government. A Deputy Commissioner of Currency has been appointed; and it is hoped that a satisfactory circulation of notes may be attained. Already such circulation, to a small extent, has commenced.

Copper Coin.

269. A large remittance of copper coin is shortly expected, and preliminary instructions have been issued for its distribution among the sub-treasuries in the interior of districts, with the view of obtaining increased circulation, and the displacement of the Cowree currency. A liberal discount has been allowed; and there is no doubt that when this consignment of copper coin shall have entered in to the circulation, a great relief will be experienced in the monetary transactions of the people.

Cost of Military Forces in these Provinces.

270. In para. 308 of my last Report, the cost of the Military Forces serving in these Provinces was stated at 43 lakhs of rupees (£430,000). The Military Returns give an addition of two Batteries of Artillery to the strength of the Force, then existing, thus raising the annual cost to Rs. 45 lakhs (£450,000). The reasons why only a portion of this expenditure is properly debitable to the finances of those Provinces have been fully discussed in my previous Reports, and need not be again repeated here.

Public Works Expenditure.

271. The Department of Public Works expenditure, inclusive of the Godavery Navigation Works, amounts to Rs. 21,16,522 (£211,652). This is of course exclusive of the expenditure from Local Funds under Public Debt.

Aggregate expenditure of all kinds.

272. Thus the total Imperial expenditure within the Central Provinces for 1863-64, may be stated in round numbers as follows :—

	Lakhs.	£.
As per Deputy Auditor and Accountant General's Statement	47½	475,000
On account of the Army	45	450,000
On account of Department Public Works	21	210,000
TOTAL ..	113½	1,135,000

CHAPTER X.

ECCLESIASTICAL.

Erection of several new Churches.

273. In the Chapter on Public Works, it was mentioned that Churches were under construction at Raepore, Bhundara, Chindwara, Hoshungadad, in all four Stations; and a Chapel at Mohtoor, the Sanitarium. A good Church exists at Kamptee. The Church at Seetabuldee (Nagpore) has been for some time open for Divine Service, and will shortly be completed in all respects, save the spire. Churches exist at Jubbulpore and at Saugor; but they were built at a time when these Stations were much smaller than at present. They are much too small for the congregations of these later days. They will ultimately have to be enlarged or rebuilt. There are now twenty Stations, Civil and Military, in these Provinces. If from these be deducted those above mentioned, at which Churches have been or are being provided (nine in number), there remain eleven Stations still to be provided for. Of these latter again, the construction of Churches at two, namely, Seonee and Chanda, is under consideration.

274. The Churches which are now being built have some pretension to architectural design. The Church at Seetabuldee (Nagpore) is a fair specimen of modern Ecclesiastical architecture.

Paucity of Chaplains.

275. There is still great want of pastoral supervision. We have only four Chaplains in all these Provinces. One Clergyman from the additional Clergy Society is expected.

CHAPTER XI.

POLITICAL.

276. In my previous Reports, mention has been made of the various semi-independent Chiefs who occupy many of the outlying parts of these Provinces.

277. During the year now under review, a complete enquiry has been made into the past history and present status of these Chiefs, and a detailed Report has been submitted to the Supreme Government, with a view to the determination of all questions which may in future arise regarding their position. The catalogue of these Chiefs comprises 115 of them. Of these, some belong to the country of the Mahanuddy, called the Gurhjat States; some to the region near the Godavery; some to the valley of the Wynegunga; some to the country near Nagpore; some to the Hill country of the Sautpoora Range; some are scattered over the Saugor and Nerbudda Territories. The groups of Chiefs have been arranged thus :—

Various classes of Chiefs.

I.—The Nagpore Zemindars.

(1).—The Zemindars of the *Wynegunga* district.

(2).—The *Chutteesgurh* Zemindars, including—

a.—The *Khullotee* Zemindars, formerly subjected to the Lanjee district.

b.—The Zemindars of *Chutteesgurh Proper.*

c.—The *Kondwân* Zemindars.

d.—*Kakair.*

e.—*Kharonde.*

f.—*Bustar.*

(3).—The Chanda Zemindars.

(4).—The Thakoors of Deogurh above the ghats (Chindwara), now generally termed Jagheerdars.

II.—The Sumbulpore Gurhjat Chiefs.

III.—The Rajahs, and others of the Saugor and Nerbudda Territories.

278. All these tenures are more or less of ancient origin, and date from the earlier times of Mahratta Rule, or from the period of the Gond and Rajpoot dynasties, which preceded the Mahrattas. As most of the Chiefships are wild and remote, the surveys have not yet reached them, and their areas and population are not known with any accuracy. But the aggregate of these scattered areas must be very great, and may amount to perhaps 50,000 square miles, while the total population cannot be more than one million. Some few of the Chiefships are in rich champagne country, but the majority lie deep among the Hills and Forests. Some of the Chiefs are rich in their way, and maintain a petty dignity; but most of them are rude, poor, and wild, like the country they inhabit. The various questions raised regarding the settlement of their general status, rights and privileges, are still pending. In reviewing the Report submitted, the Governor General in Council remarked that, as follows,—

Their general character.

" The tenures of these possessions are various in their character. " In some cases, the occupant rises to the position and dignity of a " Chief; in many other cases, he is evidently no more than a mere " village proprietor. In some instances, he is the descendant of a long " line of influential ancestors; in others, he is the representative of " some poor but enterprising hunter, who has cleared the ground and " subdued the forest. In many cases, the grant was held for Mili- " tary or Police service, on the condition of killing wild beasts, or even " as the head of a body of devotees."

279. In para. 319 of my last Report, it was stated that some former rebels and outlaws had been harassing the Sumbulpore frontier,

and that further trouble might be expected in that quarter. As the year 1863 went on these symptoms increased, and suspicion was directed to Soorundur Sah and his party as the real movers and instigators. In my first Report for 1861-62, a sketch was given of the antecedents of Soorundur Sah. He was relation of the last Raja of Sumbulpore, who ruled immediately before that district lapsed to the British Government. He had successfully stirred up a rebellion in Sumbulpore during the troubled period of 1857. He afterwards surrendered on conditions, and was permitted to reside under surveillance at Sumbulpore in receipt of an allowance from the British Government. This occurred in 1862. It was believed that his surrender would complete the pacification of the Sumbulpore district, which had for five years been suffering from protracted disturbance. And from that time, indeed, there was peace within the district itself. But although he was now much beholden for the forgiveness and bounty he had received from the British Government, Soorundur Sah and his friends conceived the idea of possessing themselves of the Sovereignty of Sumbulpore. Some thought of the ordinary kind of plot, namely, that of murdering the British Officers, and seizing the place. But their main design was to excite disturbance in the district by indirect means, and thus to render it an unprofitable and troublesome possession to the British Government; without themselves appearing as parties in the affair at all. If they could have accomplished this, they would have petitioned the British Government to make over to their leader Soorundur Sah, the Sovereignty of a district which would never be at peace while under British Rule. In furtherance of this design, they organized marauding bands in the Hills and Forests of the territories surrounding the Sumbulpore district. The most active among the robbers took up their quarters in the natural fastnesses of the Barah Puhar Hills near Sumbulpore itself. Thence they would issue forth and plunder villages of the Sumbulpore district, often committing murders, and practising cruelty on the inhabitants. In this way no less than 3 robberies with murder, and 18 daring and cruel robberies were committed within a short time. The robbers, of course, were checked by the Police, who had been largely reinforced. On more than one occasion they were pursued to their remote retreats. The arrival of the troops, which had been previously ordered from Cuttack, was expedited. Some of the robbers were captured, but the leaders remained at large in that almost impenetrable country. Meanwhile, Soorundur Sah and his relations made no overt

Troubles in Sumbulpore.

Soorundur Sah.

Misdeeds of his party.

sign, and apparently were quite loyal. They were however watched, and from time to time the suspicion of their complicity was strengthened. But soon afterwards discoveries were made which showed their guilt, and they were promptly arrested. Proof, documentary and other, was found, which placed the real nature of the plot beyond doubt. After the arrest of Soorundur Sah in January of this year, the robberies and other signs of disturbance ceased, and have not revived. In the emphatic language of the people themselves, "the root of the mischief was extirpated." The conduct of our own subjects in the interior of the district was satisfactory throughout; they showed not the slightest inclination to rebel. One class of Brahmins at Sumbulpore, however, did evince sympathy with the rebels. It was found that they had a grievance of long standing, which originated previously even to 1857. This matter has however, been carefully enquired into and considered.

Complicity of Soorundur Sah.

280. Soorundur Sah and several of his companions have since been brought to trial for their offences, and have been convicted by the Sessions Court. Their ultimate destination cannot, however, be determined until the result of the final Criminal appeal shall be known. Two other Chiefs have been convicted of harboring some of the criminals, and have been punished with imprisonment. Sumbulpore is now garrisoned by three companies of Native Infantry from Cuttack.

Arrest and punishment of Soorundur Sah.

CHAPTER XII.

MILITARY.

281. THE strength of the Military Forces in these Provinces remains nearly the same at the period of the last Report.

Garrisons at Sumbulpore and Sironcha.

282. It has been decided, however, within the year under review, that Sumbulpore and Sironcha (on the Godadavery) shall be permanently occupied by military garrisons. Sumbulpore is accordingly held by a detachment of 3 Companies of Native Infantry from Cuttack, and Sironcha by a detachment of 2 Companies from Chanda. Though it is doubtless of importance to avoid the scattering of troops in small bodies, yet it is essential to the safety of these two places that they should have military protection.

Present distribution of Troops.

283. The present arrangement of troops in these Provinces therefore stands thus :—

Military Stations.	Cavalry Regiments.		Artillery Batteries.	Infantry Regiments.		Remarks.
	European.	Native.	European.	European.	Native.	
Saugor ..	..	1	2	1	1	
Jubbulpore ..	..	*..	1	1	1	1 Squadron Madras Cavalry from Nowgong.
Hoshungabad ..	..	..	..	..	1	Detachment at Chanda and Sironcha.
Kamptee and Nagpore ..	..	1	4	†1	2	† Detachment convalescent at Chindwara.
Chanda ..	..	..	..	..	..	Detachment from Hoshungabad.
Raepore ..	..	..	..	..	1	
Sumbulpore ..	..	..	..	..	..	Detachment from Cuttack.
Sironcha ..	..	..	..	..	..	Do. from Hoshungabad.
Chindwara ..	..	..	..	..	..	Convalescent Detachment 1st Royals and Royal Artillery.
Mohtoor ..	..	..	..	..	..	1 Company Madras Sappers and Miners.

The total amounts to about 9,373 men of all ranks.

Nagpore Volunteers.

284. The Nagpore Volunteers continue at the same strength as mentioned in my previous Reports.

CHAPTER XIII.

MISCELLANEOUS.

SECTION I.—AGRICULTURE AND COTTON.

285. IN my previous Reports, the formation and progress of the Agri-Horticultural Society were discussed. The Society now numbers 77 members, of whom 18 are Natives. It now receives a grant-in-aid of Rs. 1,200 per annum from Government. Its total income from all sources amounts to Rs. 5,900 per annum. The chief proceeding of the Society during the year has been the importation of a trained Gardener from Scotland, who is now employed in the Society's Garden at Nagpore. This Garden is to supply the Public Gardens which will have been established in every district of these Provinces. I have obtained from the Secretary the following particulars of the Society's operations during the year.

The Agri-Horticultural Society.

Its Resources.

286. About two acres of Egyptian and New Orleans' Cotton were sown. The plants came up well but remained stunted, flowering when they were not more than 18 inches high. They subsequently assumed a withered appearance, and it was feared that the cultivation had altogether failed; but the early showers in May last have induced a remarkable change: the plants have thrown out vigorous shoots, and, with proper care and pruning, all are likely to do well. Seed gathered from these two acres during the cold weather, have now been sown over about four acres of land, and have germinated very freely. The produce in wool has not been subjected to any test, as the yield cannot, under the circumstances, be expected to show a good sample.

Cotton Experiments.

Sugarcane culture.

287. The Sugarcane was from cuttings received from Calcutta, Mysore, and Jubbulpore. Though the cane failed with Native cultivators, to whom a portion had been distributed by the District Officers, it attained a luxuriant growth in the Society's Garden. Cuttings will be available for distribution at the usual season, and the sowings that may then be made should be more carefully watched. It is evident that due attention has not been hitherto paid to them, and this may be owing to the prejudice Native cultivators have to the larger descriptions of Sugarcane.

Culture of the Potato.

288. The Potato experiment has been successful. The produce from the plot in the Agri-Horticultural Society's Garden was equal in quality to any grown in other districts. That from private gardens, and the Sonaigaon Public garden in the vicinity of Nagpore, was also superior; and these experiments prove that the climate and soil of the district are not inimical to the growth of this esculent. It is already grown extensively in Chindwara, Mundla, Jubbulpore, Saugor, Nursingpore, and Belaspore. The entire crop from the Agri-Horticultural Society's Garden has been reserved for seed. Mahabuleshwur and Ahmednuggur potatoes have also been received, together with some very superior tubers, from Captain Warner at Baitool; and some tubers from Mundla, Nursingpore, and Saugor. All possible care is being taken to preserve them for distribution at the proper time (September); but experience hitherto, seems to indicate that the larger the tuber, the more liable it is to decay; and it may be found that the best plan will be to secure the smallest sized tuber, from a good stock, for seed: the small potatoes received from Mundla have kept best.

Linseed experiments.

289. The Linseed experimented with was the ordinary country produce. It did nor answer so well as was expected. The plants did not attain a greater height than 18 inches. This is however an improvement on the ordinary growth, which scarcely reaches a foot, and greater care may secure better results. The Society has just received a small quantity of acclimatized Russian Flax seed from Her Majesty's Botanical Garden at Saharunpoor, which will be put down at the proper time.

Culture of Arrowroot.

290. Of the stock of Arrowroot grown this year 150 lbs. weight of tubers were distributed to Districts where the cultivation of the root was yet unknown. Wherever it has yet been tried it has succeeded, and reports show

that the cultivated product from even the root found in the jungles of Mundla is of "good quality." There can be no doubt, therefore, of the easy extension of Arrowroot cultivation in the Central Provinces, if the people can only be induced to turn their attention to it.

Tea Experiments.

291. The Tea seeds have not germinated in the Society's Garden at Nagpore. In Saugor the seed is reported to have sprouted well, and will doubtless succeed at Dumoh, where the Deputy Commissioner states, that there are already many plants in a flourishing condition, and one of them in flower. Tea cannot but succeed at Baitool, Chindwara, Puchmurree, and Seonee.

292. The Tallow tree has thriven remarkably well at Nagpore; some trees are now about 5 feet high, and there is a large stock of them in the Society's Garden.

Failure of Cinchona.

293. The Cinchona trees brought from Ootacamund have all unfortunately perished. The Society is in correspondence with the Superintendent of Plantations, Mr. MacIver, with reference to the best time for getting up a further supply.

Seeds of Timber trees distributed.

294. Much attention has been given to the distribution of seeds of the various valuable Timber trees: seven different kinds of Timber tree seeds from the Conservator of Forests, and of 29 kinds from Her Majesty's Botanical Garden at Sharunpore, have been distributed among the various districts.

Depôt of Young Timber trees.

295. Within the year the Society has also distributed the following trees and shrubs:—

Fruit trees	331
Forest trees	168
Flowering shrubs	190
TOTAL ..	689

The stock on hand in the Society's Nurseries consists of—

Forest trees	..	..	..	3,616
Fruit trees	..	..	..	1,947
Shrubs	..	..	...	1,785
		TOTAL..		7,348

COTTON.

296. The previous history of Cotton cultivation in these Provinces was given in paras. 332 to 338 of my last Report, and in paras. 412 to 437 of my preceding Report. It was shown that in 1862-63 a considerable increase, both in the production and exportation of this valuable staple, had been attained, owing to the great demand and high prices obtaining in the market. Since then a close examination of the statistics of the Cotton trade has been made. Some slight errors in the computation of the area under Cotton cultivation have been discovered and corrected. The average estimated yield of cleaned Cotton per acre for the whole country, heretofore fixed at 80lbs, has, after full enquiry, been reduced to 60lbs. This estimate is generally accepted as a little below the true average for a fair season.* Thus the ascertainment of production, although, of course, not absolutely guaranteed against error, has been placed on the best attainable basis. So with regard to the exportation of Cotton, the Trade Returns compiled now for the first year afford a fairly reliable check on the previous estimates, and on what is affirmed to be the extent of the exportation by wealthy merchants engaged in the trade.

Returns of Cotton for 1863-64.

* By some persons well informed in these matters this average would be considered high; by others too low; opinions vary from 40 to 150lbs. as the true average.

297. The result of the recent enquiries then are as follows.

Area under Cotton cultivation.

First, in regard to the area employed in Cotton cultivation.

	1861-62. Acres.	1862-63. Acres.	1863-64. Acres.
In the Nerbudda Valley, north of the Sautpoora Range	11,964	163,991	195,253
In the Nagpore Country, south of the Sautpoora Range	227,370	221,932	238,752
On the Chutteesgurh Plateau, and the Mahanuddy and Godavery Vallies	36,289	41,188	54,431
TOTAL Acres, ..	380,623	427,111	588,436

298. Secondly, in regard to production or yield from these acres for the same three years :—

	1861-62. lbs.	1862-63. lbs.	1863-64. lbs.
Nerbudda Valley	6,402,232	6,158,938	10,482,886
The Nagpore Country ..	13,677,682	15,961,300	22,636,182
Chutteesgurh	1,326,760	1,478,050	2,258,034
TOTAL lbs., ...	21,406,674	23,598,288	35,377,096
or Tons	9,556	10,535	15,793

Outturn of produce.

From the above it will be seen that the aggregate estimate for any one year does not amount to the full quantity which the lowest average yield per acre, viz. 60lbs, calculated on the area under cultivation, would give arithmetically. This arises from some Deputy Commissioner having taken even a lower average rate of production than 60lbs. per acre, owing to drought or frost or other natural causes affecting the year's crops. The general result is however rather within than above the mark.

299. We now come to consider the exportation of this produce. In doing so, it will be remembered that, apart from what is retained for local consumption in this manufacture of country cloth, cotton-twist, rope, &c., the whole of any one year's produce designed for exportation is not exported within the year, a portion is generally reserved for exportation in the next year; and this portion will be more or less according as the market prices, towards the close of the season, are high or low. Thus the total exportations of one year is no safe criterion of the gross production of that year. There has consequently been some difficulty heretofore in arriving at any very reliable estimate of a year's exportations. From the best available data, however, the following was stated in previous Reports to be the exportations for the three years above compared :—

Exportation of Cotton.

	1861-62. lbs.	1862-63. lbs.	1863-64. lbs.
Nerbudda Valley	5,780,672	5,032,996	9,066,822
From Nagpore Proper ..	7,857,732	16,761,538	20,762,810
From Chutteesgurh ..	1,006,058	1,153,330	1,766,116
TOTAL lbs.,..	14,644,462	22,947,864	31,595,748
or Tons .	6,538	10,244	14,105

300. Now the Trade Returns of the past year enable me to test the above figures for the year 1863-64. The comparison is not unfavorable. These Trade Returns show an actual total exportation for the year of 13,838 tons, which is just 267 tons below what was stated earlier in the year would be the total exports of the season. The difference is small, and requires no explanation. Indeed, considering that these results were derived from agencies wholly unconnected, viz., the Settlement Establishment in communication with the District Officers and the Trade Registering Establishments, so small a discrepancy is rather a proof of the general accuracy of the Returns, than otherwise.

Trade Returns of Cotton.

301. Further notice of this important staple will be found in the Chapter in Trade Statistics.

302. During the last cotton-growing season, a large quantity of acclimatized American Cotton-seed was procured from Dharwar, and sown in the various parts of the Nagpore, Wurdah, and Chanda districts, and also in the Agri-Horticultural Society's Central Farm at Nagpore itself. When the last Administration Report was written, the plants were growing well, and a good out-turn of Cotton was expected; but later in the year the plants grew sickly, and the out-turn failed. Whether this was owing to the climatic influences general to this part of India, or to special causes, is yet a matter of some doubt. Further experiments will be made this year.

Experiments with Foreign Cotton seed.

303. Measures have been taken to procure several cheap Cotton Presses from Surat. When they arrive, it is proposed to work them in the Wurdah district for a short time, and then to sell them by auction. To this limited extent it seems right that, in the present state of the country, the Administration should give an impetus to the yet latent spirit of private enterprize. The erection of machinery for the cleaning and pressing of Cotton by European Firms, at Hinghunghat and other Cotton Marts in the Wurdah Valley, is in contemplation. And there is every reason to hope that the minds of the Native dealers are being aroused to the importance of these matters; so that when the Railway shall be opened—a year or two hence—the country may be in a comparatively fit state for the reception of that great boon.

The procuring of Cotton Presses.

Future erection of Machinery.

SECTION II.—ARBORICULTURE.

304. In my previous Reports, it was mentioned that attention had been practically directed to this subject. During the year under review, some advance has been made in systematizing the efforts of our Officers. The best method of Arboriculture in these Provinces has been considered in detail by the Conservator of Forests, and others versed in the matter; and a

Practical rules framed for Arboriculture.

set of Rules has been promulgated, which will be more or less applicable to all the districts in these Provinces. These Rules comprise the collection of seedlings in the Nurseries; then the planting out of young trees into groves; then into avenues; then the cost of watering, fencing, and pruning;—the period of nurture extending over a period of six years, after which the trees will grow and thrive without assistance. The average cost of such operations has also been approximately fixed. It is estimated that an avenue of young trees of six years' growth can be, with care and economy, obtained at Rs. 550, or £55 per mile. A grove of 5,000 young trees of the same growth could be obtained for 1,135 rupees, or £113.

Extent of avenues and groves required on Main Roads.

305. Many miles of avenue have been planted on each of the Main Roads in these Provinces; but of these several are imperfect, and must in many places require renewal from time to time. For the future, however, all operations will be conducted under the Rules above described. In some places, where there is much jungle, the Main Roads will not require shade. In the open, inhabited tracts, however, the want of shade will be severely felt on the burnt-up plains, and the traveller will be only too glad of the avenue to protect him while he is on the move, and of the grove in which he may repose when the stage is over. It is calculated that, after excluding all sections of road passing through hills and jungles, and sections planted in former years, there will still be 274 miles of main road, along which avenues continuously, and groves at intervals, will have to be maintained. The cost spread over six years is estimated at one and three quarter lakhs of rupees, or £17,500.

Probable number of young trees already planted.

306. Tree nurseries have been established by the Civil Officers at all their Stations, whether at the Head Quarters of districts, or in the interior; and large numbers of young trees have been planted out. The numbers cannot be stated even approximately. But it was calculated at the end of last season that the total number planted out by all Officers, including those of the Public Works Department, amounted to about 200,000.

SECTION III.—WASTE LANDS.

307. The general character of the waste regions in these Provinces, and the rules promulgated for the sale of unassessed Waste Lands, have been described in my two previous Reports.

Grant of land in Sonekan.

308. Within the year under review, some steps have been taken by the Grantee to make use of the grant in Sonekan, which was alluded to in para. 344 of my last Report.

Cotton farm in the Dumoh district.

309. In the Dumoh district a lot of 4,640 acres has been purchased by Mr. Chapman for the culture of Cotton, and is called the Huthnee and Luckunpore Cotton Farm.

310. In the Hoshungadad district, Mr. Victor has taken in hand the deserted village of Suktepoor. The result is thus described by Mr. Elliott, the Settlement Officer :—

Model Farm in the Hoshungabad district.

"At present the cultivated area is 88 acres, while the whole area "of the village is 1,657. This does not seem a "great extent of cultivation; but Mr. Victor "has been proceeding with great care and completeness, clearing the "ground thoroughly, and preparing it for receiving the best crops, chiefly "sugar-cane. If he had chosen, he could easily have run the plough "and sown common crops over several hundred acres at less expense "than he has undergone; but his intention was to cultivate a small "area in first-rate style. All the 88 acres are held by himself, and "worked by his own servants. He informs me that in the three years he "has held the village, he has expended 10,000 rupees on its improve-"ment. * * * Mr. Victor's village, if, as I hope, "his scheme turns out successful, will be of the very greatest benefit to "the country, giving them an example of what skill and energy can "do, and fulfilling all the purposes of a Model Farm."

311. A lot of 296 acres is being purchased near Sironcha, in the Godavery district.

312. As the Land Settlement advances, those portions of the culturable waste which are private property are being formally separated from those portions which are really the property of Government, and are therefore available for purchase under the Waste Land Rules. These lots have been marked off and surveyed. The surveys are done in the native fashion, with the help of the Plane Table. The areas are approximately known. In the Hoshungabad district, the Settlement Commissioner, Mr. J. H. Morris, reports, that "675 jungle tracts (lots) have been "marked off, and about 1,400 square miles thus made available for "auction purchasers." Lots in large numbers have been similarly marked off in the districts of Nursingpore, Baitool, and Seonee. The operation having been but recently concluded, it remains yet to systematize the mass of information, so as to render it accessible and intelligible.

Survey and demarcation of available waste.

313. During the year some of the best upland tracts of the region known as the Mundla district have been visited by Captain Thomson, the Deputy Commissioner, and his Report has been published in the Government of India *Gazette*. The following passage may be extracted in reference to Waste Lands in that quarter:—"All beyond east and north of the "Bhainsen Ghat Range appeared to me most suitable for Europeans; "the soil is first-rate and will grow anything, and the country is high, "and consequently must be cool. There are, too, most extensive Saul. "Forests, which the settler would look to for the repayment of a con- "siderable part of his first outlay. I should think that for a residence, "those 'Obadars,' or small table-lands on the hills between the valley, "would be best suited. I cannot fancy a more charming situation for a "house—overlooking the whole country, and enjoying every breeze that "stirs: and the plateaus are quite extensive, enough to allow of having "large grounds about the house, and paddocks for cattle, &c.; water, too, "is to be had at a very little depth, and a road up might be easily "made;—the settler would then have his own house and grounds on the "hills, and his villages in the valleys below."

Waste Lands in the Mundla district.

314. The Waste Land Rules are equally favorable to Natives as to Europeans. Indeed the perpetual exemption from Land Tax accorded to lands thus obtained, is peculiarly acceptable to Native ideas. And now all the

Native enterprize in Waste Lands.

wealthier and more enterprizing Natives in these Provinces are beginning to realize the notion more and more as the Settlement advances. Already they are constantly making enquiries on the subject, and it seems not improbable that ere long many lots will be taken up by Natives.

Section IV.—Mineral Resources.

315. The mineral resources of these Provinces have been described in my previous Reports.

316. As the opening of the two lines of Railway in these Provinces draws near, attention is much attracted to the future supply of coal. For the Railway in the Valley of the Nerbudda, the Nerbudda Coal and Iron Company, who possess the Mopanee coal mines (which have been described in my previous Reports), will no doubt fully supply the demand; but for the Railway in the Nagpore country a nearer supply should, if possible, be found. The coal mines in the Chindwara and Baitool districts are favorably situated for this purpose, and the quality of the coal is good. The real question is the probable extent of the supply, and this will require further professional investigation. If these coal mines shall prove to be really workable, and if a Company for working them should be formed, it will be necessary to construct a Tramway from the mines to Nagpore for the conveyance of the coal, a distance of about ninety miles.

Coal mines in the districts of Chindwara and Baitool.

SECTION V.—SURVEY.

317. In the preceding Chapter III. on Land Revenue, the progress of the professional Revenue Survey was mentioned. There are three parties at work, surveying in each year an aggregate of about four thousand square miles of country, chiefly open and cultivated. At this rate all the valuable and inhabited tracts of these Provinces will have been surveyed with minute detail in about two or three years. If a fourth party could be added, then the work would certainly be completed within that period. There would still remain a vast area of hill and forest to be topographically surveyed in a less minute manner.

Progress of the professional Revenue Survey.

318. Besides these professional Revenue Surveys, there is the Topographical survey working in the Sumbulpore district. And the Deccan survey party is about to enter the Godavery district.

The Topographical Survey.

319. A general map of these Provinces is still a desideratum. The Surveyor General has again been addressed on the subject. Meanwhile, I deem it just to testify to the excellence of the Map of Central and Southern India, prepared by Colonel Scott, Quarter Master General of the Madras Army. This map comprises nearly the whole of these Provinces, and has always proved of the greatest use to Civil Officers on their tours.

Colonel Scott's Map.

Section VI.—Fairs.

320. The various places at which Fairs are held in these Provinces, and the advantages of these institutions, were mentioned in my previous Reports. Great and small, there are about 55 of them, held at various places and various seasons. The attendance at some is from 50,000 to 100,000 persons; at others, it is from only 5,000 to 10,000. The merchandize brought to a great Fair may amount in value to Rs. 3,00,000; at a small one to only Rs. 4 or 5,000. These Fairs continue to be encouraged by the Civil Authorities. The ground to be occupied by the concourse of people is clear and prepared; raised terraces are arranged for the booths. Police parties are stationed for the protection of life and property. It often happens that a large Fair may last for days and days together without any instance of theft occurring.

General character of the Fairs.

Arrangement for their encouragement.

321. But for the last two or three years, those Fairs which are held in the Spring and Summer seasons have frequently been visited by Cholera. There have been some shocking visitations of this character, and the affrighted crowds, dispersing, have carried the scourge to other localities, and even to their own homes. Despite all sanitary precautions, it seems that Cholera is to be apprehended at any point where large multitudes are congregated at these seasons. It may indeed be a question whether we should not discourage those Fairs which occur at that time of year, and restrict encouragement to those which are held during the cold season.

Visitations of Cholera.

Section VII.—Carriage and Labor.

322. In my previous Reports were described the efforts which have been made to prevent the impressment of Labor and Carriage, and to provide legitimate means of supply by the establishment of Labor Agents.

The impressment of Labor and Carriage prevented.

323. The impressment of Labor and Carriage may, on the whole, be said to have been stopped. If it has not entirely ceased, its occurrence is rare. The public, generally, are aware of its prohibition, and the natives are become acquainted with their rights in this respect. The Labor Agents are useful to some extent, though it cannot be said that their utility is anywhere great, while in many places it is but little. The establishment of these recognized Agents is at the best but a temporary arrangement to smooth the transition from a forced artificial supply, to a free and natural supply. The great object is to stop the forcing and impressment. This once done permanently, then the mutual adjustment of supply and demand may be left to operate.

Establishment of Labor Agents.

Section VIII.—Trade Statistics.

324. As stated in my last Report, para. 363, establishments have been posted at selected points on the exterior boundaries of these Provinces to register the trade passing to and fro. The Returns which have been compiled for the year 1863-64 have been carefully examined

and tested by Mr. Barclay, Superintendent of the Chief Commissioner's Office. They agree generally with the Returns of the previous year, and with the estimates of Native Bankers and others engaged in trade. Some changes, both in the bulk and the direction of the traffic in some articles, have occurred. These will be noticed further on in their proper place. Certainly these Returns cannot be said to be correct in the full sense of that term, but they are sufficiently correct to afford a general abstract view of the extent, character, and value of the trade of these Provinces.

Preparation of Statistics.

325. But before entering on an analysis of these Statistics, I will describe the plan adopted for their collection First, then, a cordon of posts has been established along the outer boundaries of the Central Provinces, at commanding points on the trunk and branch lines of traffic; a Native writer at each of these points registers the trade entering into, and passing out of, the country. This great Circle has again been divided into 3 minor Circles, corresponding with the three divisions into which these Provinces divide themselves, topographically and commercially considered. Thus there is the Eastern Circle, embracing the Raepore, Belaspore, Sumbulpore, and Upper Godavery districts, the Gurhjat States, the dependencies of Bustar and Kharonde. This Circle may be termed the granary of the Deccan, and the neighbouring countries on the East. From its extensive forests is drawn a large portion of that raw produce which enters into the manufacture of the Indian Lac dye. The coarse brown silk known locally as Tussur, bees' wax, timber, and other forest produce, is gathered and exported in large quantities. Secondly, there is the upland country, from the Sautpoora Range to the borders of Rewah, Bundlecund, Bhopal, and other Native States in Central India. It is known as the Saugor and Nerbudda Territories. It embraces 9 districts. Its climate in most parts is favorable to the growth of the sugar-cane, and course brown sugar is largely manufactured and exported; the same may be said of opium. It is rich in metallic ores; and the manufacture and export of a class of metal utensils, entering into the domestic economy of the middle and upper class of Natives, and corresponding with the table furniture of European nations, is considerable. Grain and other agricultural produce is plenty. And, thirdly, there is the Nagpore country, lying below the Sautpoora Range on the north and north-east. Herein lie the rich cultivated vallies of the Wurdah and Wynegunga Rivers. It is the Nagpore Country Proper, bordering on Berar, and,

Statistical Circles of Trade.

like Berar, agriculturists are here taking fast to the exclusive cultivation of cotton. In the more eastern parts of the Circle, however, grain, oilseeds, hemp, sugar-cane, and other produce is plentifully cultivated. Of manufacture, the stout, or rather coarse Cotton fabrics of Bhundara and Nagpore, find a ready sale in every market in India, and are much preferred to the finer Manchester cloths, as articles of clothing, by the people. Copper and brass cooking and other utensils are also largely manufactured.

326. Thus there is one great Trade Circle divided into 3 minor Circles, so that the trade of each, or the trade of the three Circles, as a whole, may be separately examined and considered.

Trade of the first or Eastern Circle.

327. I proceed, in the first instance, to examine the trade of the first or Eastern Circle. The Returns of the year give a total aggregate trade, exports and imports, by land and by water, of 1,836,103 maunds, or 65,575 tons, valued at Rs. 71,60,415 (£716,041). Of this trade, the imports amount to 216,317 maunds, valued at Rs. 29,16,402; the exports at 1,619,791 maunds, valued at Rs. 42,44,013. The principal articles of import and export are given in the following table :—

	Imports.		Exports.	
	Maunds.	Rs.	Maunds.	Rs.
Salt	80,977	3,00,519	..	..
Cotton	..	..	42,747	13,42,430
English piece goods	4,682	5,12,979	..	..
Grain	..	..	1,437,623	15,25,038
Country cloth ..	8,021	1,06,368	..	..
Lac dye	..	..	26,334	5,56,965
Metals (Utensils) .	7,960	2,78,435	..	..
Cocoanuts ...	31,885	4,25,731	15,354	1,47,279
Tobacco, Hides, Wool, Sugar, Miscellaneous.	82,792	12,92,370	97,733	6,72,301

The Import of Salt appears to be understated, as, calculating at the lowest rate of consumption for a population of 2¼ million souls, the

import must be nearer 200,000 maunds. The habits of the Binjara carriers render it difficult to arrange for the registering of *all* the traffic in a country like that of Chutteesgurh; for they avoid the public highways as much as possible; they travel with their extensive herds of cattle through the heart of the uninhabited forests, not caring for time or distance, but guided only by the supply of forage and water in their route forward or backward. This will in a great measure account for the defectiveness of the Returns in regard to this article. The same may be said generally of grain exported; as the same class of carriers, after delivering the imported consignment of salt, return laden with grain and other produce. Lac dye is principally exported to Mirzapore, from whence metals, English piece goods, sugar, &c., are imported. In "Miscellaneous" is included a large traffic in timber and live cattle, particularly Buffaloes, towards the Eastern districts. Of the total quantity of Cotton exported, about 28,000 maunds had taken the water route by the Mahanuddy.

Trade of the second or Southern Circle.

328. The Returns for the Southern Circle give a total import of 1,587,181 maunds, valued at Rs. 79,09,866, and a total export of 451,606 maunds, valued at Rs. 97,70,107. The following table will show the principal articles of which this trade consists :—

	Imports.		Exports.	
	Maunds.	Rs.	Maunds.	Rs.
Salt	162,797	8,82,304	6,681	18,353
Sugar	35,000	4,00,000	23,000	69,000
Cotton	48,571	12,61,846	226,674	61,69,325
English piece goods	2,000	2,25,000	2,000	3,00,000
Grain	1,113,830	15,30,933	98,028	2,92,925
Country cloth ..	..	..	37,000	19,00,00
Metals .. .	8,000	4,00,000	5,000	1,25,000
Cocoanuts ..	15,354	1,47,279	..	..
Miscellaneous ..	184,629	30,62,504	52,223	8,95,504

The exports of Cotton, except a few thousand maunds, had all crossed the Wurdah on its way to Bombay by Rail from Mulkapore. Corresponding with this large production and exportation of cotton, there has been an increase in the importation of grain from Raepore and the Nerbudda Valley. The total quantity of Salt imported has come from Bombay and the Western Coast, except some 8,000 maunds im-

ported from the Eastern Coast viâ the Godavery. The Country cloth exported had crossed the Wurdah towards Berar and Western India. The Returns appear defective in respect to the imports of European piece goods, for, while the trade with Bombay in this article is supposed to be worth from 7 to 8 lakhs of rupees annually, the Returns give something above 2 lakhs only. There is possibly some difficulty in the correct registration, by Native writers, of the value of European consignments. These generally pass the different trade posts in sealed packages, in charge of cartmen unacquainted with their contents, so that the Returns must always, more or less, be incorrect in this respect. Of articles of hardware—brass and copper utensils, &c.—the imports were from Bombay and the Western districts, and from the Northern districts and Mirzapore; the exports of the same article were towards the same directions. The imports of sugar amounted to about 35,000 maunds, valued at 4 lakhs of rupees. About the same quantity of unrefined sugar or "Jaggery," locally produced, has been exported West and North.

Trade of the third or Northern Circle.

329. The Returns for the Northern Circle (Saugor and Nerbudda Territories) are somewhat incomplete; but from available data, compiled from the Returns of the greater portion of the year, the exports for the whole year may be stated approximately at about 886,000 maunds, and the imports at 700,000 maunds. The principal articles of import and export may be thus stated :—

	Imports.		Exports.	
	Maunds.	Rs.	Maunds.	Rs.
Salt	3,00,000	15,00,000	..	..
Sugar .. .	57,283	6,87,456	35,000	4,00,000
Cotton	..	..	1,10,000	27,50,000
English piece goods	7,000	5,00,000	4,000	3,00,000
Grain ..	2,50,000	3,00,000	6,18,000	8,62,519
Country cloth ..	15,000	8,00,000	7,000	5,00,000
Lac ..	6,000	1,25,000	6,000	3,00,000
Metals ..	..	..	7,000	3,000
Miscellaneous ..	56,712	1,87,544	99,000	6,50,000
Total ..	7,00,000	42,00,000	8,86,000	57,65,519

The Salt is almost wholly imported from Rajpootana. The Sugar imports are from Mirzapore and Calcutta, so also is the bulk of the English piece goods. The Lac imported was mainly from the forest tracts of Raepore and Belaspore. The Lac manufactory at Jubbulpore is said to prepare and export a considerable quantity of this article to Calcutta for shipment annually. The export of cotton was partly to Mirzapore, and partly to Mulkapore, via Baitool, Hoshungabad, &c., for conveyance to Bombay. The Grain exports have principally been to the Foreign Native States on the north-western border of the Circle.

330. Having thus separately glanced at the trade of each of the three Trade Circles described, I will examine briefly the Returns in respect to the exterior trade of these Provinces, taken as a whole.

Aggregate of the external trade of the Central Provinces.

331. After excluding then all the interior trade between Circle and Circle, or that which does not enter into the trade between these Territories and the Territories beyond its boundaries, the *exterior* trade of the Central Provinces may be thus epitomized, restricting the review to only a few of the principal articles of commerce.

	Imports.		Exports.	
	Maunds.	Rs.	Maunds.	Rs.
Salt	542,000	26,82,000	..	..
Sugar	67,000	8,04,000	57,000	3,25,000
Grain	..	..	350,000	4,00,000
English piece goods	13,000	10,00,000	..	..
Cotton	48,571	12,61,846	378,000	1,02,00,000
Country cloth ..	..	..	44,000	24,00,000
Lac	..	..	30,000	6,50,000
Metals	15,000	6,75,000	2,500	80,000
Cocoanuts ...	31,000	4,00,000	..	..
Miscellaneous	150,000	30,00,000	125,000	25,00,000
Total ..	906,571	98,22,846	986,000	1,65,55,000
Total in Tons & Pounds	33,187	982,285	36,095	16,55,500

Total of exterior trade, Tons 69,282 (£2,637,785).

332. On the whole, it may be said that the largest share of the traffic is with Bombay; and as Railway communication with that Presidency approaches nearer and nearer, so will this traffic increase more and more. Already there has been a very perceptable change in the direction of the flow of trade generally. The Mirzapore route—so long the great highway of trade from these Territories—is now resorted to only by the most northern of our districts; but the opening up of the navigation of the Godavery river to the south, and of the Mahanuddy to the east, even partially, will cause another change—certainly in respect to the bulkier description of goods. But if within hundreds of miles of these Provinces there exist no other means for the conveyance of goods than the rude country cart drawn by dimunitive ill-fed oxen, and the existing traffic is what it has shown to be,—who shall say what that traffic will amount to, when communication with the sea-board, by the River and the Rail, shall have been brought to the gates, so to speak, of this vast Territory.

Section IX.—Hospitals and Dispensaries.

333. Considerable progress has been made under this head. One new Dispensary (at the Mohtoor Sanitarium) and 5 new branch Dispensaries in various districts have been added to those previously existing. At the close of 1863, there were in all 18 Dispensaries and 12 branch Dispensaries at work. The 2nd branch Dispensary in the Nagpore City, which was mentioned in last year's Report as in contemplation, is nearly ready; and in other districts, additional branch Dispensaries are being organized. The establishment of an Hospital for European patients at Nagpore is under the consideration of the Nagpore Dispensary Committee.

Total number of Dispensaries.

334. During the year 58,506 patients were treated, being an increase of 39 per cent. over the numbers treated in 1862; the details being as below:

Increase of Patients.

In-door	3,497
Out-door	55,008
TOTAL..	58,506

In-door Males	3 per cent.
„ Females..	15 „
TOTAL..	5 „

Out-door Males	38
„ Females	57
TOTAL..	42

Both In-door and Out-door 39 per cent.

335. The total cost of these institutions during 1863 amounted to Rs. 37,523, or £3,752. When the year closed, the various Committees had Rs. 20,050 in hand. Of this sum, Rs. 12,500 were invested at interest. Of the total receipts during the year, viz. Rs. 38,077, Rs. 27,437, or 72 per cent., were granted by Government; Rs. 1,616 were voted by the Municipal Committee from Local Funds; Rs. 822 accrued from interest on invested capital; and Rs. 8,200 were raised by private subscription. Of the sum thus subscribed, 53 per cent. was contributed by natives.

Financial Resources.

Increase of private Subscription.

The subscriptions amounted to double the amount subscribed in 1862; in two districts they exceeded the Government grants.

336. A scheme of vaccination, on what may be termed the Kumaon system, has received the sanction of the Supreme Government. It comprises a Superintendent of Vaccination, and a strong Staff of vaccinators. A Medical Officer has been appointed as Superintendent. The Corps of vaccinators will be immediately organized, and operations will commence after the coming Autumn. They will probably be confined at

New scheme for Vaccination.

first to the districts round Nagpore. The main principle of the scheme is to concentrate operations within a given area, until small-pox shall cease within those limits. If this be effected, the people, seeing the cessation of the scourge, will acquire faith in the prophylactic. When once the confidence of the people shall be won, the successful spread of vaccination will spontaneously follow. The system under which vaccination has been carried on, to a certain extent, by one or two vaccinators in each district, did but little appreciable good. It was impossible to test the effect of these scattered operations; or to give assurance to the people by any palpable result. It is hoped that by the new scheme, the progress, though it may be slight at first, will at all events be real and substantial. The cost of the scheme is estimated at Rs. 10,756, or £1,075 per annum.

New Lunatic Asylum at Nagpore.

337. The Nagpore Lunatic Asylum has been opened. It is fitted for 40 Lunatics. It is placed in charge of the Civil Surgeon at Nagpore. It will possibly be found too small for the Lunatics of the whole of the Central Provinces. The Lunatics from Sumbulpore might advantageously be received in the Asylum at Cuttack; but, for the Northern districts, another Asylum at Saugor or Jubbulpore may be requisite.

Leper Asylum at Nagpore.

338. The establishment of a Leper Asylum at Nagpore was determined on some months ago, and commencement has been made.

Section X.—Improvement in the breed of horned Cattle, Horses, and Sheep.

Importation of selected Bulls; and prizes offered for superior stock.

339. The measures which were reported last year as being in progress have been continued. A number of selected Bulls have been imported by the various Local Committees, and prizes offered at several Fairs for superior stock. Application for 50 Bulls from the Hissar Government Farm has been made.

340. The Supreme Government has sanctioned the purchase of 10 Stallions. They will be kept at the Head Quarters of the following districts :—

Purchase of Stallions.

Nursingpore.	Seonee.
Hoshungabad.	Baitool.
Saugor.	Nagpore.
Jubbulpore.	Chindwara.
Dumoh.	

By these means it is hoped to improve the existing breed of horses, which, in many parts of these Provinces, is exceedingly inferior.

341. Proposals were made to Government to establish Kheddahs for the capture of the wild Elephants, which exist in considerable numbers in the Belaspore district. The scheme has been deemed too expensive. A cheaper plan is now being considered. There are about 400 Elephants in the Belaspore jungles, and the country is extremely well adapted for their easy capture. The need of Elephants for riding and for lading purposes is very great in these Provinces. They have been supplied to some extent to the Settlement, the Survey, the Police, and the Forest Departments. Proposals for a further supply to District Officers have been made to the Supreme Government. If the Belaspore Elephants, which are now merely mischievous and destructive, could only be caught, then all the above requirements could be easily met.

Elephant Kheddah in the Belaspore district.

SECTION XI.—FORESTS.

342. In my previous Reports, I have described generally the Forests of these Provinces, and the important resources of timber comprised therein.

Dr. Brandis' visit to the forests.

343. In para. 383 of my last Report, I mentioned the visit of Dr. D. Brandis, formerly Conservator of Forests in British Burmah, and now Inspector General of Forests to the Government of India. I have since had the advantage of conferring with that Officer on all points connected with the forests, and a set of Draft Rules have been prepared, which will, it is hoped, place the conservancy of forests in these Provinces on a permanent footing.

Reserved Forest Tracts.

344. By the Settlement operations now in progress, all forest land which is private property will be duly separated from land which is the property of the State. In forest lands which are private property, no authoritative interference on objects of conservancy will be necessary. In all other forest lands, at the disposal of the State, the best will be marked off as reserved forest tracts, and entrusted to the Forest Department; and in the rest, the conservancy of the forests will be entrusted to the Civil Authorities of the district. The reserved tracts will be brought under all the processes of professional forestry,—pruning, thinning, planting, and the like.

Other forests.

345. In the rest, or unreserved forests, the Civil Officers will prevent the most valuable kinds, such as Teak and Saul, being cut without permission. As regards the common kinds of trees, the people will be allowed to cut them without restriction.

Interest of the State and of the people equally guarded.

346. By these means it is hoped that, on the one hand, the interests of the State will be guarded, and, on the other hand, the requirements of the people will be considered. It is presumed that the choicest pieces of forest, from which the supply of future years is to be drawn, will be included in the reserved tracts. A considerable portion of the forests will also fall within the tracts under the Civil Officers; in these, indiscriminate cutting will be prevented. Thus are safe-guards provided for the interests of the forests. The people again will have the free use of all jungle and timber within those lands in which their proprietary right has been declared. In the forests again, beyond the limits of their lands, they may cut freely of common trees, and the more valuable trees they can obtain by application to the Civil Authorities.

Area of reserved tracts.

347. The reserved tracts have not yet been fully determined; they are scattered in different parts of the country; the best of them are situate in the Hill country of the Sautpoora Range. So far as we yet know, they will be about 31 in number, and will comprise an aggregate of 1,943 square miles. The demarcation of these tracts has, however, been effected in the Baitool district this year, and will be proceeded with in the other districts next year.

Railway sleepers.

348. During the year under review some 52,521 sleepers have been furnished to the Railway Department, and some 14,002 logs to the Railway and other Public Departments.

The "Dhya" Cultivation.

349. The question of the "Dhya" cultivation, which is considered by Foresters as the enemy of the forests, was stated in para. 382 of my last Report. A just consideration for the Hill people forbids us to stop this peculiar cultivation; but it is practicable to restrict it within such moderate limits so as to save some of the best forests without distressing the Hill men. This policy has been pursued: and though the Dhya still exists, still it is not quite so expansive or nearly so mischevous to the forests as it was. It never can be stopped until these Hill people shall resort to the better kind of agriculture, shall learn to drive the plough, and to keep yokes of oxen.

Rapid increase of the Teak forests.

350. One palpable result of our forest conservancy may be seen in the new growth of the Teak tree all over the country. The common Teak of these Provinces is of an inferior and comparatively stunted kind. Still it is useful for a hundred purposes, and has many of the merits for which its species is celebrated. It must once have grown abundantly in every direction. But wasteful and reckless cutting had almost exhausted the species. It is now revivi ng and growing up everywhere. Wherever the traveller goes beyond the purely champagne country, he sees the young Teak rising up. Captain Pearson, the able and experienced Conservator of Forests, thus writes on that subject, and I can fully corroborate the correctness of his remark:—"This tree is springing up "in millions everywhere, and in many places it is thriving most amaz- "ingly. It will soon require to be thinned. Were this the only good "result of forest management in these Provinces, the money expended "would have been well laid out."

351. The result may prove of some importance to the interests of the people; for the gradual destruction of Teak, which they use so much for the building of their houses, had obliged them to resort to the inferior kinds of wood. It will now, however, be practicable to afford them a steady and permanent supply of Teak.

CHAPTER XIV.

CONCLUSION.

Services of individual Officers.

352. It remains for me to acknowledge the assistance specially rendered by individual Officers to this Administration during the year.

353. In my last Report, I stated the excellent effects which had resulted from the efforts of the late Judicial Commissioner, Mr J. Strachey, to establish a sound and good judicial administration in these Provinces. He has recently been appointed to a higher office under the Supreme Government, but he held charge of the Judicial Commissionership during the year under review. He left the impress of his mind on every portion of the extensive work he had in hand; whether it concerned the introduction of law, or the enforcement of practice; whether the observance of strict rule, or the dispensing of substantial justice. The effect of his guidance will be found in the conduct of every Court in the country. And the good he did in his time here will be remembered by those with whom he was associated, by those who served under him, and by the people at large. His successor, Mr. J. S. Campbell, has but recently entered on his duties. But he is already giving vigorous effect to the system inaugurated by his predecessor.

354. Captain H. Mackenzie, Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, has rendered the greatest assistance in all respects. He has continued to be of special use in enforcing rule, system, and method in all departments. He is altogether an Officer of decided ability. Mr. H. Rivett-Carnac, Assistant Secretary, has continued to render zealous and efficient aid.

355. Mr. J. H. Morris, the Settlement Commissioner, joined his appointment during the year. He has already effected much in guiding and controlling the operations of his Officers: and, on the whole, no Department under this Administration has done better than that supervised by Mr. Morris. Of the Divisional Commissioners, the following have rendered speci ally good service during the year :—

Mr. J. S. Campbell.	Col. J. G. Balmain.
Mr. R. E. Egerton.	

356. Of all the Deputy Commissioners, Captain Nembhard has done the best; he has, moreover, conducted the regular settlement of his district. After him, I would name the following as having done very well :—

Major J. B Dennys.	Captain A. B. Cumberledge.	
Major J. N. H Maclean.	Major J. Ashburner.	
Major H. B. Impey, (deceased).	Captain G. A. A. Warner.	Offg.
Captain C. L. R Glasfurd.	Mr. W. Chisholm.	Offg.
Captain F. A. Fenton.		

357. Among the Assistant Commissioners, I have specially to mention—

Captain H. F. Newmarch.	Captain J. Loch.
Lieut. C. H. Plowden.	Lieut. C. H. Grace.

358. Major F. L. Magniac and Mr. F. Macnaghten have efficiently performed the duties of their respective Courts of Small Causes. Major Magniac in particular has done much to popularize the administration of Civil Justice at Nagpore. Captain F. H. Hammer has done satisfactorily the heavy work pertaining to the Cantonment Magistracy in the large station of Kamptee.

359. Of the Settlement Officers, Mr. C. Bernard, Mr. C. A. Elliott, Mr. W. Ramsay, Mr. A. B. Ross, have done excellent work, and are all deserving of the highest commendation. Mr. C. Grant, though he

joined late in the year, has taken up his work with vigour and ability. Mr. H. Read and Mr. A. M. Russell have also done well.

360. Among the Extra-Assistants, the services of the following Officers merit acknowledgment :—

M. W Munton.	Ashfaq Hosein.
Mr. R. A. Sterndale.	Bulwunt Rao.
Mr. D. A. Cameron.	Jye Kishen.
Monshee Sheo Pershad.	

361. Of the Tehseeldars, or Sub-Collectors, the following have done the best :—

Mirza Alee (Jubbulpore).
Enayat Hosein (Hingunghat).
Ibnool Hosein (Seonee-Hoshungabad).

362. Of the Officers engaged in ministerial duties, commendation is especially due to Mr. G. Barclay, Superintendent of the Chief Commissioner's Office, to Messrs. J. S. Hannagan and W. A Russell, Head Clerks of the Offices of the Commission in the Jubbulpore and Saugor Divisions.

363. In the Police Department, the Inspector General, Colonel H. D. Taylor, continues to evince zeal and judgment in all matters relating to the organization and efficiency of the Force. Of the Officers subordinate to him, the following are selected for commendation :—

Captain F. G. Steuart, Deputy Inspector General.

District Superintendents.

Captain W. J. Morris.	Captain C. S. B. Walton.
Lieutenant H. Fraser.	Mr. J. M. Berrill.
Captain W. F. Ireland.	

Assistant District Superintendents.

Lieutenant W. Vertue.	Lieutenant H. A. Hammond.

Inspectors.

Mr. M. Hankin.	Mr. A. Collis.
„ A. Wrixon.	Sheik Mahomed Booden.

364. In the Educational Department, the Director, Captain P. Dods, has evinced much judgment and ability in establishing the new system. He has been excellently seconded by Mr. C. A. R. Browning, Inspector of Schools in the Northern Circle. Lieutenant G. H. Trevor and Ramchunder Deenanath have also done well, in their respective Circles. Among the Masters of Schools, Mr. Wiggins (Saugor), Mr. Fraser (Kamptee), and Mr. J. Elliott (Nagpore) are deserving of praise.

365. In the Account Department, every assistance and information has been afforded by Mr. W. Biss, the Deputy Auditor and Accountant General.

366. In the Public Works Department, the Office of Chief Engineer was held during the year by Colonel A. Impey. He visited all the Godavery Works, and retired from the service in February last, being succeeded by Colonel C. H Dickens. Among the Executive Officers, the following Officers have displayed much zeal and ability :—

Superintendent of Works.

Captain A. Cadell.

Executive Officers.

Mr. J. H. Heyman.	Lieutenant H. G. Puckle.
Mr. W. J. O'Donnell	Captain W. D. Chapman.
Captain B. Prior.	

Assistant Executive Officers.

Mr. J. H. Wilson.	Mr. H. Bell.
Lieutenant Sim.	Mr. J. Whiting.
Mr. F. L. O'Callagan.	

Mr. S. Hannah, of the Irrigation Department, has shown much ability in the conduct of the important enquiries entrusted to him.

367. In the Account Department of the Department Public Works, Mr. A. G. Crommelin has continued to render every assistance, and during a portion of the year acted efficiently as Chief Engineer.

368. In the Forest Department, Captain G. F. Pearson, the Conservator, is deserving of high praise for guarding the interests of the

forests with zeal and devotion, and showing at the same time every consideration to the people. Under him, Lieutenants Douglas, Doveton, and Freeborn have done very well. This Department is also under obligations to Dr. D. Brandis (Inspector General of Forests to the Government of India) for his able advice and suggestions.

369. In the Customs Department, I have specially to note the services of Messrs. G. M. Jones and Ives, in laying down the new Imperial line. Every assistance in the conduct of affairs relating to Customs has been rendered by the Commissioner, Mr. W. E. Money.

370. In the Professional Survey, Captain A. D. Vanrenen, Lieutenant J. Sconce, Lieutenant Taylor, and Captain G. H. Saxton, have executed a large amount of work.

371. Among the Civil Surgeons, the following Officers have distinguished themselves by professional zeal and usefulness :—

Dr. W. W. Heude.	Dr. C. E. W. Bensley.
Dr. Wilson.	Dr. P. Cullen.
Dr. W. Rice.	Dr. J. J. McL Cameron.

This Department is also indebted to Doctor Orr, C. B., Deputy Inspector General of Hospitals, for valuable assistance in framing the new Vaccination scheme.

372. In the Railway Department, Lieutenant Downing Swiney (Bombay Engineers), the Deputy Consulting Engineer has, in all respects, rendered great assistance to this Administration in matters connected with the selection of Station sites, and all arrangements connected therewith.

373. In my Report for 1861-62, the name of Captain Lucie Smith was accidentally omitted. He rendered excellent service during the period of disturbance, 1857, in the suppression of rebellion on the Eastern Frontier of the Nagpore Province.

374. Though a few have been selected for special mention, yet many others have done well : and generally our administrative agency has exerted itself to accomplish what is required Both the Officers and the people have had much to learn in a hundred ways at once. The variety and multiplicity of affairs, simultaneously pressing for attention ; the more than ordinary difficulty of improvising the means and resources for executing necessary measures,—have constituted our

principal drawbacks. Despite all our efforts, the result of the Administration continues to fall far short of the requirements of the country. We may hope, however, that the foundation of progress and improvement in the future is being laid. At all events, there has been a general awakening, and there is a determination to persevere.

NAGPORE: *The 18th July* 1864. (Signed) R. TEMPLE.

APPENDIX.

Abstract Statement of Receipts and Disbursements of the Central Provinces for 1863-64.

	Receipts.	Receipts on account of previous years.	Receipts on account of 1863-64.	Total.
	Cash Balance	Rupees. ..	Rupees. ..	Rupees. 45,13,103
I.	Land Revenue, &c. .. { 1.—Land Revenue .. .. 2.—Forests	2,87,603 ..	55,01,051 80,805	57,88,654 80,805
II.	Assessed Taxes .. { 3.—Abkaree .. .. 1.—Income Tax	1,13,902 73,029	6,07,402 2,74,859	7,21,455 3,73,949
III.	Customs .. .. { Imports .. .. Exports .. .. Customs duty, &c.	.. .. ..	.. .. ..	.. .. ..
IV.	Salt .. .. { Sales	2,14,818 ..	.. ..	2,14,818 ..
V.	Opium	11,85,114 ..	.. ..	11,85,114 ..
VI.	Stamps	2,80,026 ..	.. ..	2,80,026 ..
VII.	Mint	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..
VIII.	Post Office .. .. *Vide XIX.*	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..
IX.	Electric Telegraph	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..
X.	Law and Justice	1,52,662	1,01,963	2,54,625
XI.	Police	3,473	..	3,473
XII.	Marine	..	..	..
XIII.	Public Works	..	..	..
XIV.	Tributes and Contributions on account of Contingent from Native States	..	..	..
XV.	Miscellaneous, Civil	30,396	2,700	33,096
	Total ..	4,70,602	80,58,816	85,29,418
XVI.	Interest :—			
	1.—On Imperial Loans (over payments recovered) ..	..	..	..
	2.—On Local Loans .. Do. ..	..	..	..
	3.—On advances to Service Funds ..	..	..	..
	4.—On other Accounts	..	..	..
	Total ..	..	..	..
XVII.	Public Debt :—			
	1.—Public Loans, Imperial (Subscriptions) ..	..	..	..
	2.—Local Loans .. Do. ..	..	79,400	..
	3.—Local Taxes	..	..	..
	4.—Service Funds	..	21,471	..
	5.—Local Funds	..	15,10,502	..
	6.—Deposits	..	19,01,947	..
	7.—Miscellaneous (Advances repayable, &c.) ..	..	3,87,016	..
	8.—Railway Traffic Account ..	..	..	..
	9.—Local Remittances—			
	Cash received ..	..	55,94,911	..
	Bills drawn ..	..	11,36,198	..
	Public Works Remittances ..	..	2,16,627	..
		..	..	74,71,276
XVIII.	Adjusted Receipts ..			
	1.—On account of other Governments ..	..	..	..
	2.—On account of Provinces ..	..	..	..
	.. ..	..	..	36,07,326
	General Government of India.			
	Post Office Remittances.. ..	..	91,587	
	Electric Telegraph Remittances ..	..	12,075	
		..	..	1,03,662
	Grand Total ..	..	..	2,45,11,720

	Disbursements.	Payments on account of previous years.	Payments on account of 1863-64.	Total.
A.—	Allowances, Refunds and Drawback	Rupees. 3,054	Rupees. 17,089	Rupees. 12,143
B.—	Charges against Income :—			
	I.—Revenue Departments.			
	1.—Land Revenue, Forest and Abkaree	58,931	11,63,755	12,22,686
	2.—Assessed Taxes	..	..	..
	3.—Customs {	..	8,18,755	8,18,755
	4.—Salt {	..	..	..
	5.—Opium	..	..	..
	6.—Stamps	161	16,354	16,515
	7.—Mint	..	..	..
	8.—Post Office	..	..	..
	9.—Electric Telegraph { *Vide I.*	..	..	..
	Total ..	59,092	19,98,104	20,57,196
	II.—Allowances and Assignments under Treaties and Engagements ..	64,901	7,39,403	7,83,304
	III.—Allowances to District and Village Officers	3,470	17,645	10,115
	IV.—Miscellaneous	694	7,712	8,406
	V.—Contingencies, Special and Temporary	..	..	..
	Total ..	69,715	7,63,760	8,34,825
	Total ..	1,32,862	27,61,864	28,94,726
C.—	Army	..	..	..
D.—	Navy	..	..	..
E.—	Works of internal improvement and Public convenience	..	..	..
F.—	Civil Services :—			
	I.—Civil Buildings	..	..	..
	II.—Salaries and Expenses of Public Departments ..	17,150	2,50,697	2,76,857
	III.—Law and Justice	30,497	6,17,892	6,57,379
	IV.—Police	56,481	12,64,948	13,20,649
	V.—Education, Science and Art	13,832	1,28,175	1,41,907
	VI.—Political Agencies and other Foreign Services ..	1,961	378	2,339
	VII.—Superannuation and Retired Allowances and Gratuities for Charitable and other purposes	16,518	2,90,658	3,10,170
	VIII.—Marine	..	..	..
	IX.—Miscellaneous	2,573	48,726	51,301
	X.—Civil Contingencies, Special and Temporary ..	619	89	708
	Total ..	1,40,135	29,99,563	34,09,609
	Total A. to F.	2,56,704	44,96,176	47,52,879
G.—	Interest :—			
	I.—On Imperial Loans	..	..	..
	II.—On Local Loans	..	..	..
	III.—On Service Funds	..	..	..
	IV.—On other Accounts	..	..	..
H.—	Public Debt :—			
	I.—Imperial Loans under liquidation and transfer ..	..	..	..
	II.—Local Loans under liquidation	..	..	..
	III.—Service Funds	..	79,000	..
	IV.—Local Funds	..	9,84,040	..
	V.—Deposits	..	15,01,930	..
	VI.—Miscellaneous (Advances repayable, &c.) ..	..	4,44,870	..
	VII.—Railway Traffic Account	..	..	..
	VIII.—Local Remittances—			
	Cash remitted	..	57,54,045	..
	Bills paid	..	11,57,454	..
	Public Works Remittances	..	80,56,709	..
		..	..	93,78,162
I.—	Adjusted Charges :—			
	I.—On account of other Governments	12,689	39,626	62,315
	II.—On account of Provinces	..	..	..
J.—	Remittances to other Governments	..	..	67,00,114
	General Government of India.			
	Post Office Remittances	..	2,64,774	..
	Electric Telegraph Remittances	..	61,990	2,66,764
	Total ..	..	..	2,11,56,685
	Cash Balance ..	..	..	33,55,035
	Grand Total ..	..	..	2,45,11,720

Deputy Asst. and Accountant General's Office,
NAGPORE :
The 4*th July* 1864

WEBSTER BISS,
Deputy Auditor and Accountant General,
Central Provinces.

REPORT

ON THE

ADMINISTRATION

OF THE

CENTRAL PROVINCES

FOR THE YEAR 1864-65.

BY

R. TEMPLE, ESQUIRE, B. C. S.

NAGPORE:

PRINTED AT THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE PRESS.

1865.

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REPORT

ON THE

CENTRAL PROVINCES' ADMINISTRATION,

1864-65.

INTRODUCTION.

I NOW submit the fourth Report of the Administration of the Central Provinces, comprising mainly the proceedings of the year 1864-65. My three previous Reports have presented a description of the country and of its salient circumstances. To that description I have little to add. But as the Administration is now more than three years old, the present occasion is suitable for recapitulating briefly what has been done, and for considering the effect produced thereby on the progress of the country. This introductory chapter, therefore, will present a general view of the subjects which are to be treated of in the succeeding chapters.

In an Indian province, the most important topics are those relating to the land. I am able to report that agriculture was flourishing in the Central Provinces during 1864-65. The seasons were not indeed without viscissitudes. In the plains of Chutteesgurh, the rice crop missed its accustomed flooding from autumnal rains, and the cattle were turned in to graze on the withered and grainless stalks. In the valley of the Nerbudda, the spring weather was darkened by storms of hail and rain, threatening with destruction the waving harvest of wheat and oilseeds. Still, the general out-turn of the year's produce of all kinds was up to the average. There was enough, not only to support the population of the country, but also to succour neighbouring provinces. Some thirty-five thousand tons of grain are ascertained to have been exported across our frontiers during the year. And the high repute of the grains of Central India was maintained, by the several prizes awarded to samples of them at the Lucknow Exhibition.

The culture of cotton reached to probably a culminating point during the year. There was never so much grown before. There is not so much being grown at this time of writing. When the crop was gathered by the growers, and sold by them to the traders, the prices of cotton were at their height. When the crop was sent down to Bombay for exportation to England, the newly established line of the Indo-European Telegraph flashed the news of the sudden fall of prices in England. The troubles which thence arose to those engaged in the cotton trade need no description here. I allude to them now, only to mention that the people of these provinces almost entirely escaped from the disaster. The growers and the local traders had sold the crop on the ground to foreign merchants at highly remunerative rates, and had for the most part received payment before the depression fell on the market. Only one of the many firms in these provinces drifted into difficulties. Thus the cotton crisis of the last few years has up to a certain point proved of unmixed benefit to the people both rich and poor. It has put many hundreds of thousands, I might almost say millions of pounds sterling into their pockets. It has specially benefitted the small proprietor, the cultivator, and the farm laborer. It has caused cultivation to spread, and has doubled the rate of agricultural wages. It has largely checked the coarser manufactures of country cloth, and has released a mass of workmen to be employed on more profitable work. It has, on the other hand, stimulated the importation of English piece-goods.

But the people have not yet turned this accession of wealth to the best account. For, in the first place, they have not spent all their enhanced earnings in improving their lands, or in ministering to fresh wants and luxuries. Though they have increased their importation of foreign articles, they have not brought it up to a corresponding amount with exportation of home produce. And thus they still cause the public Mail to be loaded with consignments of bullion, which ultimately is either to be buried in the ground, or to be moulded into ornaments. In the second place, they have done but little to improve that culture which to them has proved so rapidly fortunate. Still is the rising crop choked with weeds; still is the produce piled up into heaps, which look from afar like vast tents, or like pyramids of snow, and which are exposed to the flying dust, and the driving rain; still are the bales so badly packed, that

the roadways and the hedgerows are strewed with fragments of the cotton.

The new demands for cotton have been so sudden and emergent, that the people have been absorbed in the thought of sending cotton down to the Coast, no matter of what quality, or in what manner. They have been disinclined to attempting the introduction of superior varieties of the staple,—an operation which takes time. They will sow New Orleans seed or Egyptian seed fast enough; and if mere sowing had been sufficient, they would, ere this, have introduced these varieties. But they are averse to bestowing that degree of thought and care which such measures require. Thus it has happened, that the sowings of foreign seeds have resulted only in failure. Whatever was possible on the part of the State, has been done; and experiments, under professional supervision, are being carried on, until at length, after repeated disappointments, some gleams of success are apparent. Here and there some fields of American cotton are to be seen; and in some places, weighing machinery, saw-gins, and presses have been put up. The conclusion at present seems to be, that our best cotton-fields *can* produce the American variety, but that its acclimatization will demand a long perseverance.

The condition of the agricultural classes is flourishing. The prices of agricultural produce have settled down to rates at least double those of ten years ago, and treble those of twenty years ago. They are still, however, below those now prevailing in the Deccan and in Western India. Thus a further rise of prices may perhaps be looked for here. On the other hand, the land tax, though raised somewhat, has not been much enhanced. The tenants and cultivators have not had their rents raised in proportion to the value of their produce. No restrictions indeed are placed by authority on the enhancement of rents; such arrangements being left to equitable agreement as much as possible. But, as a matter of private convenience, the landlords have not practically chosen to raise their rents much. The Ryots then must be very well to do. The landlords again, though they have not gained much by their rent-roll, have yet profited by the increased proceeds of their own homestead farms, which are usually among the choicest portions of their lands.

Thus, while the income of the people has grown, their burdens have not become perceptibly heavier. But, as counterbalancing

the profit thus accruing to the agricultural interest from what they have to sell, there is the increased price of what they have to buy. In my last Report, I mentioned that these classes must pay much more now than formerly for their clothes, their wood, their cattle, and their farm labor. That remark has still as much force as ever. Though over fifty thousand head of cattle are ascertained to have been imported into these provinces during the year, still the price of these animals ranges at four times the rate of former days. Last spring, in the cotton-picking season, the growers would give a shilling (eight annas) a day to a laborer, and still they had great difficulty in getting their work done.

The rights of the people in the soil have now been defined and affirmed. A few years ago, there was no such thing as property in land recognized. Now, by the proceedings of the Settlement, this recognition has been rendered complete for nearly the whole of the country. The proprietary tenures in more than twenty-five thousand villages or estates have thus been formally declared, and more than eleven thousand conflicting claims to such tenures have been adjudicated. So also tenant-right has been considered, with regard, on the one hand, to the actual position of the tenantry, and on the other hand, to the just interests of the landlord. More than twelve thousand cases of inferior proprietorship have been recognized; more than fifty thousand have been declared to possess full rights of occupancy; seventy thousand more have been ranked as holding the position contemplated by Act X. of 1859; while more than two hundred and ten thousand have been recorded as tenants-at-will. In furtherance of these enquiries, the lands of some twenty-two thousand villages or estates have been mapped out field by field, and some twenty-one thousand square miles have been professionally surveyed.

The fruits of these measures will be indeed already apparent, in the improved temper and disposition of all these classes, from the highest to the lowest. It is not easy at first to bring home to their minds the advantages (unprecedented in Central India) which are thus secured to them. To this end, however, I have on my several tours assembled the landholders in every district in these provinces, and explained to them that the land is theirs always,—not only for the term for which the assessment of the land tax is to run, but permanently,—and theirs absolutely, to inherit, to sell, to mortgage, or otherwise dispose of; the only condition being the payment of a moderate

land tax assessed for periods from twenty to thirty years. As a proof that this position is becoming understood, there have been sales and mortgages already; not so numerous as to indicate distress anywhere, but in such moderate numbers as might be expected from the creation of facilities for conveyance of perfect titles. As a proof, however, of how backward, despite improvements, the country still is, the sums fetched by the land in these transactions have been very low.

If the agricultural classes are flourishing, there is at least an equal degree of prosperity with the non-agricultural and mercantile classes. The trade of these provinces always was great in proportion to wealth and numbers, and now it is greater than ever.

For more than two years there has been a full registration of all traffic passing to and fro on the highways. At last, the returns are approaching to something like accuracy. From them it will be seen that the total of exports and imports amounted in 1863-64 to one hundred and two thousand tons, valued at three hundred and ninety-one lakhs of rupees, or nearly four millions sterling; while that for 1864-65 amounted to one hundred and forty-six thousand tons, valued at five hundred and fifty-six lakhs of rupees, or five and a half millions sterling. In both cases, the returns are exclusive of bullion. The sum total is considerable for a population of nine millions of souls, dwelling far inland, in the very midst of the Peninsula, and having no sea-board on any side, and no sea-port. While on the one hand, the cotton, the cereals, and the oilseeds are exported, the importation of English piece-goods is increasing fast; the last year showed an increase of thirty-seven per cent. over the imports of the preceding year. The manner in which these goods are finding their way, not only to the centres of trade, but also to the wilder and less inhabited parts of the country, is perhaps extraordinary. In rural markets held in sequestered tracts surrounded by hills and forests, I have seen, amongst stalls of rude iron-ware and rustic pottery, whole packages of Manchester goods, evidently marked in England, with labels "expressly for India."

Our manufactures, too, though not great, are in their way prosperous. The coarsest cloths, indeed, are no longer made, owing to the dearness of raw material, and will probably be superseded by machinery-made cloths in the factories to be established at the principal stations as the Railway advances.

But the manufacture of best country-made cloths is in a forward position. A manufacture of cloths, which, though not equal to that at the most advanced parts of India, is yet fairly good and interesting, has for a long period existed in the Nagpore country. It was much sustained by the existence of the Mahratta court and camp. After the lapse of Mahratta rule it languished. But now fresh influences have arisen: the cloths are not only required for local demand, but are also sent to the markets of Western India There are now about twenty-eight thousand hand-looms plying in all the towns and villages of the Nagpore country. From these, there are turned out silk fabrics, and cotton cloths of excellent texture, with richly coloured borders and fringes. The manufactures in brass and pottery and leather, the carving in wood and stone, and the smelting and forging of country iron, are all growing branches of industry.

In connexion with all this prosperity, it must still be noted that prices both of necessaries and luxuries continue as high as ever; though they are not so high as in Western India and in the Coast Districts. Even in our Eastern Districts (Chutteesgurh) the prices, though still comparatively low, are getting higher and higher; and thus cheapness is, as it were, being driven out of its last stronghold. The high prices, however, range chiefly in the centres of industry and in the frequented districts. There are still many remote tracts where labor is but scantily remunerated. Thus the dearness of wages, though common, is by no means universal. But where high prices prevail, there is employment abundant, and well paid; and no distress occurs. At such places as Nagpore, despite the dearness of food, the labouring poor were never better off than they are now; owing to the immense demand for their services on our Public Works. It is indeed a common saying among the people, that without these works the poor must have starved; but that with these works going on, none, save Brahmins and mendicants, need be in want.

Of our taxation, the main item, Land Tax, is certainly light. Though it has been raised in parts, it has also been reduced in parts; and the net increase has amounted to only six per cent. In some parts of the country, the assessment was made when the land was comparatively uncultivated. Production and cultivation having vastly expanded, the tax has now to be raised. But a too great and sudden enhancement of demand is never safe;

and thus the increased assessment is not always fully proportionate to the increased production. Still, in fair and due regard to the State, there have been some large increases of assessment. For instance, in one district (Seonee) there has been an increase of fifty-five per cent; in another (Hoshungabad) of forty-three per cent; in another (Baitool) of thirty-two per cent. In these districts the new assessments fall at the rate of only six annas and two pies, or nine pence, per cultivated acre. In the newly settled districts, generally, the incidence of the land tax ranges from twelve annas and three pies, or one shilling and two pence, to four annas and seven pies, or seven pence, per cultivated acre. These rates are avowedly moderate. They do not represent more than from one-eighth to one-twelfth of the value of the gross produce of the land. But experience proves that there is no one thing that so much smooths all difficulties in administration, and renders so happy the relations between the authorities and the people, as moderation in the land tax. Moreover, in these provinces, there are many marked instances in favour of the commonly received opinion, that the land tax is all important, and that those districts where it is lightly assessed advance with great strides, while those districts where it is heavily assessed do actually retrograde. The Nerbudda Valley was lightly assessed when it consisted of comparatively poor districts. It has now became literally one of the granaries of India. The country north of the Nerbudda was heavily assessed years ago; and it was, up to the last two or three years, in a state of retrogression. In the Sautpoora Hill country, the districts of Seonee and Baitool were lightly assessed under British rule years ago: since then, the one has become famous for wheat and rice, and the other for opium and sugar. But the district of Chindwara, which lies right between the two just named, and in most respects resembles them, was heavily assessed under Mahratta rule, and is only now obtaining full relief. It has never improved, and continues to be rather poor than otherwise. From such instances, I derive happy auguries for the future of those districts now so moderately assessed at the new Settlement.

But although the lands now cultivated have been lightly assessed, and although increase to this part of the land revenue cannot be expected for twenty or thirty years, (when no doubt there will be a really fine increase,) still the yield of land revenue will rise greatly in other ways even within the above-

named period. For while a fair margin of waste, according to proved right or to possession, and in proportion to cultivation, has been assigned to the landholders, and included in the twenty or thirty years' assessment, yet all other waste lands have been carefully excluded. All claims to unoccupied lands have been scrutinized, and, wherever necessary, the right of the State has been insisted on. Thus many thousands of blocks of land, containing about two and a half million of acres, have been specifically demarcated, after enquiry, as belonging to the State, and as being available either to be sold under the rules to capitalists, or to be let on cultivating leases. Herein may be perceived a source of a fiscal increase, which may commence immediately and grow year by year. As yet, the purchases of waste lands have not been great, only eighteen-thousand acres having been sold within the last two years: and too much must not be hoped herefrom. But many profitable leases for grazing or cultivating will, no doubt, be effected.

Besides that portion of the Government waste lands above described, which is culturable, there is that portion which is covered either with forest or with brushwood. Now the royalties on the valuable kinds of timber, the duties levied on the common sorts of wood, on the fruits, the grasses, and on various articles of forest produce, are becoming considerable. This branch of revenue is quite of recent origin. A few years ago it was almost nothing. Two years ago it amounted to £5,000; it is now estimated at two lakhs of rupees, or £20,000 per annum. And considering that surveys and settlements by adding to our information multiply our means of supervising this revenue; that the prosperity of the inhabited districts, and the opening up of communications, will raise immensely the demand for the produce of the wilder tracts; that the spontaneous produce of these tracts is varied and valuable,—it is difficult to foresee the extent to which this branch of our income may increase hereafter.

But if the land revenue, being light, has not, as yet, materially increased, still it will be seen that all other branches of revenue have rapidly risen, and that the total result is a large financial profit.

A few years ago—that is in 1861—the total Salt Tax in these provinces amounted to about seven lakhs of rupees, or £70,000. Then some parts of the country previously untaxed came

under local duties—then a local customs line was established. That step proving profitable, a step onwards was taken, and a regular customs cordon was stretched out, till at last it has encompassed five hundred and fifty miles of our border. This last measure, executed in a difficult and often unhealthy country, has taxed the energies of our establishment; but the result has been a large increase to the revenue, which now stands at sixteen lakhs of rupees, or £160,000, and will shortly stand at twenty lakhs of rupees, or £200,000 per annum. Nor can it be supposed that the duties, which are the same as those in the rest of the Bengal Presidency, are too high, for the trade statistics show an increase of thirty-seven per cent. in the importation of Salt into these provinces during 1864-65. Even if a part of this be due to improved registration, still much of it must be real, and owing to increased consumption.

In the Excise on spirits some loss has been incurred, in order to do away with certain parts of the fiscal system which were found to encourage intemperance. The moral effect of the change has been happy. The gradual elevation of the habits of the Gonds and other hill men is attested by all who know them. Men who once might be seen sitting in the dawn of day outside the liquor shops with bloodshot eyes after night-long drinking, are now to be seen as industrious wood-cutters, and well behaved farm-servants. Still, by careful management, this item of Excise is again rising. The Stamp revenue, too, has risen thirty-six per cent. within the last three years. Certain taxes of a local character, called "Pandree," are increasing with revised assessment.

When my first Report was submitted in 1862, the whole income of the year for these provinces was shown at eighty-two lakhs of rupees, or £820,000. This Report in 1865 will show the income of the year to be ninety-four lakhs, or £940,000. This represents an increase of fifteen per cent. in three years. A small part is owing to the addition of territory (Nimar). But, on the other hand, the repeal of a great part of the Income tax has occurred within this very period. It may be added, too, that there is no reason to expect that the income will remain stationary; on the contrary, there is a prospect of the increase going on.

The above statement relates to Government revenues properly so called, but there are other receipts (shown under Public Debt) called Local Funds. These funds are really a

part of the public income, and from them are defrayed the cost of a large portion of Public Instruction; of a part of the Police Establishment; of the repairs of District Roads; of Municipal Improvements of all Towns and Cities. In 1860-61, these funds did not amount altogether to more than three lakhs of rupees, or £30,000. The present Report in 1865 will show that they now amount to fourteen lakhs of rupees, or £140,000 per annum. And here again there is prospect of further increase.

Thus if Imperial revenue and Local Funds be taken together, the Public income of these provinces has risen in three or four years from about eighty-five lakhs of rupees, or £850,000, to one hundred and eight lakhs of rupees, or £1,080,000. This shows an increase of twenty-three lakhs of rupees, or £230,000, or thirty per cent.

Under this view of the case, a fair share of financial prosperity may be claimed for these provinces.

In respect to expenditure, it is to be borne in mind that in 1862, on the formation of this Administration, the Nagpore Irregular Force, previously diminished, was entirely broken up, and that several Police levies were disbanded, whereby a total saving of seven lakhs of rupees, or £70,000, was effected; and that the amalgamation of all the Civil establishments produced a further saving of one lakh of rupees, or £10,000. Since then, the Civil expenditure has increased by full fifteen per cent. This increase partly arises from administrative improvements, but chiefly from new departments, such as Education; and from the new establishments for the collection of additional revenue. Again, however, all the establishments have undergone scrutiny; and recently (in 1865) when sanctioning the finally revised schedules, the Supreme Government expressed itself as "glad to acknowledge the careful regard to economy with which the revision of the Ministerial Establishments in the Central Provinces has been effected."

On the whole, I believe that the people in these provinces are contented with British rule. Such indeed is the impression I gathered from the reception I met with from them during my many tours. They are often timid as hares, and averse to changes which they do not at first comprehend. But when a thing is explained to them, they have an instinctive disposition to obey authority. If, however, they had resolved not to obey, they would probably be found to have much

aptitude for passive opposition. The contentment of the landholders is indeed notorious. During my many tours, I have hardly ever received a complaint from them regarding the land tax. They have not only individually admitted to me that the new assessments are fair and moderate, but have said so in open Durbar assemblies. Moreover people, when complaining of some other grievance, or asking some other concession, have more than once urged that, inasmuch as the land settlement has been so favorable, the good work may as well be continued, by such and such a flaw being removed, or such and such a point being conceded. Of course, such an argument may be invalid. But the fact of its being used in that way, shows what the common opinion is regarding the equitableness of the land settlement.

Many complicated questions, relating to the position and privileges of the numerous feudatories and semi-independent Chiefs scattered over our Eastern frontiers, have been brought to a solution, which will probably lead to increased fidelity and attachment on their part. The last embers in Sumbulpore of the troubles which originated in 1857 have been stamped out, by the capture and banishment of Soorunder Sah and his friends. These men are now secure in the distant fortress of Asseergurh. Every endeavour has been made to remove the doubts which had been engendered in the minds of the people of Sumbulpore ever since the disturbance of 1857. Perfect quiet exists there at present. Many revenue-free grants have been revised in favor of the incumbents. And the concession of proprietary right to all the landholders in that district is reported to have given great satisfaction.

While endeavour has been made to further the public interest, both in respect of income and expenditure, I trust it will be found that thought has been given to measures for the good of the people, such as education, the administration of justice, the organising of the Police, the protection of the public health; and to measures for the physical improvement of the country, such as roads, municipal works, and public buildings.

As regards education, my previous Reports have shown how more than ordinarily backward these provinces have been in this respect. It is not to be supposed that any real change can be worked in three or four years. Whatever result may have been by this time achieved, must be infinitesimally

small relatively to the wants of the people. I trust, however, it will be seen that a commencement, on a considerable scale, has been made. When my first Report was written in 1862, there were in these provinces about three hundred and fifty Government schools and some fourteen thousand scholars. This Report, 1865, will show that there are now some seven hundred Government schools and twenty-seven thousand scholars. But more important than the numerical return of scholars, is the quality of the education given. This perhaps may be to some extent assumed from the expenditure devoted to it. In 1861-62, there was a State expenditure on education of half a lakh of rupees annually, or £5,000, and no local expenditure at all. There is now a State expenditure of one and a half lakhs of rupees, or £15,000, and a Local expenditure of one lakh of rupees, or £10,000; in all two and a half lakhs of rupees, or £25,000. The Grant-in-aid system has been introduced, and more than ten thousand rupees, or £1,000, are being disbursed during the present year in aid of private institutions. As a proof of the spread of educational influence among the people, it may be noted that the returns of attendance at the rural schools show nearly half the scholars to be sons of landholders or cultivators. From my own inspections, I have no doubt that such is the case. Again, within the past two years, about one lakh of rupees, or £10,000, have been voluntarily subscribed, chiefly in small sums by Natives, for maintenance of the schools. This is indeed a satisfactory circumstance. Even female education has made a start. The returns show some hundreds of girls among the scholars.

Within the country of Nagpore Proper, the culture of the Mahratta language, which is there the real vernacular, may be mentioned. Some years ago the adoption of the foreign Oordoo language in the public departments of those districts benumbed the minds and chilled the aspirations of the people. After some delay and trouble, the restoration of the true vernacular has been rendered complete. Mahratta is now the language used in the Courts, in the fiscal departments, in the Schools; and the public business is transacted by Mahratta officials. Thus, it is hoped, will the intellect of the rising generation at Nagpore, now so backward, be turned in a natural direction, and will start onwards with rapid strides.

For the administration of justice, the Civil and Criminal Procedure Acts and the Penal Code have been fully intro-

duced and acted on, and a variety of laws extending over all matters of importance have been one by one applied to these provinces, till at last the whole system has become thoroughly regulationized. For the administration of the law there were, when my first Report was submitted in 1861-62, some fifty-four Civil Judges of various degrees and some seventy-five Magisterial Officers. There are now in 1865, some ninety-six Civil Judges, including two Small Cause Court Judges under the Act, and one hundred and thirty Magisterial Officers, including Honorary Magistrates. That the Honorary Magistrates, chiefly Natives, did, during the last year, dispose of more than four thousand criminal trials, and gave satisfaction both to the public and to the judicial authorities, proves that the object of Government in conferring these powers for the general good of the people, is duly appreciated. The judicial returns show that in the despatch of business our Officers have been really most diligent, and that justice is at all events prompt and cheap. The increase of litigation year by year would show that the Courts are gaining in popular confidence. It must be admitted, however, that many of our Officers are still wanting in judicial knowledge; though they are all learning fast, and are subjected to constant instruction. The Criminal Returns show a marked dimunition of all the more violent crimes, and an increase of detection and conviction. There is, however, more of such crimes, as Robbery, than there ought to be.

The relation between the new Police and the Magistracy are, I believe, satisfactorily settled, with due regard both to the intention of the law and to practical efficiency. It is now the unanimous opinion of all the Civil and Judicial Officers of these provinces, that the new Force is altogether more efficient, and more popular with the people, than the old.

In respect to the public health, the annual recurrence of cholera is causing more and more anxiety. In some tracts of country the visitation has been severe. In such places, the panic-stricken villagers have fled from their homes, and hidden themselves among the rocks and ravines; or some again have sought refuge in other villages, but have been driven back with sticks by their neighbours from fear of infection. In some villages, where the epidemic was causing death, I have myself seen the people sitting outside their doors, with their heads on their knees, in dumb despair. Moreover, the fear

gains ground that the gatherings at Fairs, and such like occasions, in the spring season, when cholera usually appears, are becoming dangerous. An awful instance of this occurred last spring. There was a great gathering of pilgrims at the sacred Cave on the summit of the Puchmurri Hills, nearly four thousand feet above the level of the sea. I have seen the spot myself on other occasions. The air is cool, the water-springs are clear, and the scenery is grand. In this beautiful locality these thousands of people bought and sold, and sacrificed to their gods, little thinking of any destructive influence being at hand. One day virulent cholera appeared, and they all fled down the hills. The pestilence relentlessly pursued them. The flying parties left some of their dead at every halting place. As the fugitives approached the plains the horrors grew worse. At some points by the way-side the corpses accumulated, and the country people refused to assist in burial, from fear of contagion. Then the infection appeared in the villages on the line of march. The fugitives were consequently denied shelter by the villagers, and were forbidden by the municipalities to enter the towns. Thus they gradually dispersed. But wherever they went cholera appeared in their trail. It will be seen hereafter that, upon sanitary grounds, the gathering at that season in future years has now been formally prohibited. Great efforts are being made to prevent or mitigate these visitations in the country generally, by improved conservancy, not only in towns, but in villages.

The establishment of Dispensaries and the growth of these Institutions will attest the care which is given to the public health. Some four years ago, there were in these provinces sixteen Dispensaries, and twenty-five thousand patients annually. There are now thirty-six Dispensaries, and eighty-two thousand patients, and the increase is going on year by year.

I shall now touch very briefly upon what has been done for the physical improvement of the country.

The most important matter is that of roads. The peculiar need of good communications in provinces like these, where almost the whole area is broken up into hills, valleys, and ravines, has been fully set forth on previous occasions. At the period of my first Report, 1862, road-making had but recently commenced; and, save one road partially made many years

ago, (*i. e.*, the Jubbulpore and Mirzapore Road,) I was not able to point to any finished sections of road existing. I am now able to return (including the work of both the Public Works Department and of the Local Committees) about three hundred and seventy (exclusive of the Mirzapore Road) miles as finished; some one hundred and twenty miles as open for traffic, though not quite completed; some fifty miles as under construction; and some one hundred and seventy miles surveyed. There are about three hundred and forty miles of road in various stages of progress, which are now more or less being worked upon by our establishments. And this is quite irrespective of the repairs made on District Roads by the Local Committees. Some three years ago, the road from Jubbulpore to Nagpore was nothing more than a cart track over a rugged and mountainous country; but in October of the present year (1865) a Mail cart was driven experimentally from one place to the other, making use almost the whole way of a regular road, made and bridged. From Nagpore to the end of the cotton districts, about a hundred miles, there was only a cart track. There is now a made road. From Nagpore to the eastward, there was the commencement of a road under Native rule. That line will now soon be finished for the first ninety miles. The road from Jubbulpore to Mirzapore, though made, was not bridged. By this time fully half of the required bridges have been built. Under this Administration, from 1862 to 1865, about forty-seven lakhs of rupees, or £470,000 (including establishments), have been expended on roads. These efforts will in time produce a visible effect on the traffic; and already roomy carts, with high wheels and powerful bullocks, are beginning to supersede the diminutive country carts, which are fit only for rough passage straight across country. But, as yet, it were vain to suppose that road-making, even to the extent above specified, can make any large change in the character of the traffic. Further efforts must be made before any such change can be accomplished.

Perhaps the general result, if reckoned in the aggregate, may amount to something. Certainly the trouble to attain even that much in a country like this, has been infinite. But in reality, the result is almost as nothing compared with the actual needs of the country and with what yet remains to be done. Still the roads all round the large military station of Saugor

are impassable for guns after heavy rain; still the line down the Nerbudda Valley is closed entirely during one half the year, and worn into ruts two or three feet deep during the other half; still thousands of tons of valuable produce on the Eastern borders are carried laboriously on the backs of bullocks, merely because it has not been possible to render the hill passes fit for wheeled carriage.

The municipal improvement of our cities and towns has for some time engaged attention. In the cities, such as Nagpore, Kamptee, Jubbulpore, Saugor, Raepore, and the like, miles and miles of new streets have been opened out, cleared, metalled, and drained. At all such places tanks for water supply, gardens for public recreation, squares for the holding of markets, have been fully provided. But it would not be right while beautifying the central places to overlook the interior. Therefore the same system, in an appropriate degree, has been carried into all the towns scattered over the country, without, I believe, a single exception. The natural and normal wretchedness of these places can be imagined. But now not one of them has escaped the improving hand of British Administration. Municipal Committees of the leading townspeople have been appointed in all the towns, and have begun to show some traces of public spirit and capacity for management. Some ninety-five infant municipalities in the various districts have thus been called into existence. Places, called towns indeed, but being truly agglomerations of huts huddled together in utter disorder, are now beginning to show—here a street, there a square; here a neat school-house, there a dispensary, and so on. And it is remarkable, that wherever these works are executed, the inhabitants begin to enlarge, even to embellish, their dwellings. Thus it is hoped that, by degrees, domestic architecture may be advanced and the tastes of the people become more civilized.

The importance of artificial irrigation to the future productiveness of these provinces has not been lost sight of. Already such irrigation exists in many parts; but the extension of the system on a greater scale to other parts is needed. Gond Sovereigns, whom we call "aboriginal," and whose descendants really are in some respects semi-barbarous, bequeathed to us, in this respect, an example which we may equal, but shall probably not surpass. The old tanks, and such like works, are maintained in effective order; and several new projects, re-

quiring much engineering skill, have been designed, though not actually commenced.

The Navigation works of the Upper Godavery drag, I am sorry to say, their slow length along. Still important progress, in proportion to the limited funds at our disposal, has been made with the works at the first Barrier. The broad bed of the Godavery has been crossed from side to side by a vast stone dam five thousand three hundred and sixty feet in length, and fifteen feet in height; large masonry sluices, and locks, with chambers for good sized steamers, are being constructed. Some fifteen miles of the canal, to carry the boats round the barrier, have been excavated. A complete project of works for the same purpose at the second Barrier has been made. But ground has not yet been broken at that Barrier.

Civil buildings form a large item in our Public Works. Literally, scores of Court-houses and hundreds of Police posts have been required. Most of the Court-houses have been built; but many, indeed most, of the Police buildings remain to be erected. Of the several new Jails required, some are being built on a first-class scale, after the most approved designs. Many Rest-houses for the accommodation of travellers, European and Native, have been provided; but many more are still needed. Several new Churches have been, or are being, built.

In respect to Military buildings, it has not been possible to do all that might be desired for the erection of permanent barracks for European troops. At the stations of Saugor and Jubbulpore, there have been difficult questions pending in regard to the selection of sites, and lengthened enquiry has been needed. Thus but few permanent structures, at either place, have been erected. These questions are now approaching solution, and the new buildings will soon be commenced. Meanwhile, all the minor improvements suitable to the existing temporary buildings have been carried out. At Kamptee and Nagpore, the accommodation for the troops has now, after considerable expense, been rendered complete. At all the large stations, effect is being given to the recommendations of the Sanitary Commission.

For the outlying military stations in these provinces the dispositions and arrangements may be considered complete. Some of the old stations in the interior, which circumstances had rendered unnecessary, having been abolished, those positions, which would be really needed on our frontiers in the

event of trouble, are efficiently occupied by regular troops, and have been made permanent Military Stations. These are Hoshungabad on the North-west border, Chanda and Seroncha on the Godavery and Deecan border, and Raepore and Sumbulpore on the Eastern border.

Lastly, there is Railway communication.—a work which, in importance, overshadows all other physical improvements. The Rails from Bombay have actually touched our Western frontier at two places—one in the valley of the Wurdah, one in the valley of the Taptee. The steam-engine has come to within seventy miles of Nagpore, and will reach that place itself some six months hence. In one year more, the Railway from Allahabad will reach Jubbulpore; and within two years that section of the through Railway communication between Calcutta and Bombay, which passes within these provinces, will be opened. The prospect of the changes which will thus come over these provinces is too vast to be entered on here.

CHAPTER I.

JUDICIAL.

SECTION I.—CIVIL JUSTICE.

THE previous Reports have shown what has been done for the establishment of Law and System. My constant aim has been, that the whole Administration should be placed on a sound legal basis, and should in all respects be conducted strictly in accordance with Law. Practically, this aim has now been so for attained, that wherever laws are required, we have adopted some of existing Regulations. Theoretically, however, there is still doubt as to whether many of the laws now actually followed have been lawfully *applied* to these Provinces. This defect will be remedied in time.

Adherence to Laws and Regulations.

2. Doubts having arisen as to the legality of the powers exercised by some classes of the Civil Courts in some parts of these Provinces, the matter was brought to the notice of the Imperial Legislature. And a law has been passed (Act VI. of 1865) defining the competency of the Courts in all their several grades.

The Civil Jurisdiction Act.

3. My last Report also gave an abstract of the important Circulars which had been issued for the enforcement of the Judicial system. That abstract embraced no less than thirty-four subjects. Since then Circulars have been issued on four additional subjects, as follows:—

Judicial Circulars.

1.—The conduct of Suits to which Government is a Party.

2.—The levy of fees for the serving of Processes issued by Civil Courts.

3.—The payment of subsistence money to witnesses in Civil Causes.

4.—The extension to all classes of Suits of the system (previously ordered for certain classes only), whereby the whole record of the evidence is made in the handwriting of the presiding Officer.

It may now be said that the Judicial system is theoretically complete in all, or nearly all, particulars.

4. But it remains to carry the system thoroughly into practice. None probably, save those engaged in the work, would believe how difficult it is to induce a large and mixed body of Judicial Officers to follow per-

Enforcement of observance of Laws and Rules.

fectly the plain laws, rules, and orders laid down for their guidance. Our Courts, though already much improved, and still improving year by year, are yet far from perfect in their obedience to order; and deviations are still too frequent. As stated in my previous Reports, Mr. J. Strachey, as Judicial Commissioner, began the task of drilling the Courts into obedience. His successor, Mr. J. S. Campbell, has proceeded vigorously with the same task. And this supervision is carried on, not only by examining Judicial Returns, and by criticising cases that come upon Appeal, but also by specially sending for cases from each Court in turn, and scrutinizing them with a view to the discovery of error. It is, therefore, satisfactory that Mr. Campbell is able to report a decided and progressive improvement in the work of the Courts.

Judicial machinery.

5. The Judicial machinery is the same as that described in my previous Reports. The plan of instituting a Station Court at the Head-quarters of each district continues to be worked with good effect. By having at every station one Officer exclusively devoted *pro tempore* to Civil Justice, we hope to avoid to some extent that distraction which must be incidental to a Judicial Officer who has other and executive duties to perform.

Tehseeldars trained as Civil Judges.

6. In my last Report, it was stated that the Native Judges in the interior of the districts (Tehseeldars) were defective in training, and were, indeed, the weakest part of the Judicial machinery. These Officers have, during the past year, been brought specially under instruction, and, though still far from what they ought to be, they are much improved.

Continued increase of Litigation.

7. Litigation continues slightly to increase, seeing that there were 26,305 Suits instituted in the year 1863, and 28,300 in the year 1864. In my last Report, I regarded such increase as a good sign. I still think that, if the people grow in wealth and in knowledge, and if the Courts become more and more sure to do justice, the increase of litigation should cause neither regret nor surprise.

8. The above comparison of Suits instituted in the two years excludes Nimar, a district added to these Provinces in the year 1864. If the sum total of Cases for disposal in all the districts, including Nimar, and including the Cases pending for the previous year, as well as the fresh Cases instituted during the year, be reckoned, then the Return of Cases before the Courts in the year 1864 stands at 33,295, which is the highest figure yet reached under this Administration, and is much above the Return for the year 1863; namely, 28,655.

Value of Suits.

9. The total value of the Suits in the year 1864 amounted to Rs. 20,06,769 (£200,677), against Rs. 20,44,623 (£204,462) in the year 1863. The average value of a Suit in the year 1863 amounted to Rs. 73 (£7 6*s.* 0*d.*), and in the year 1864 to Rs. 60 (£6). Hence it is apparent that the litigation continues to be, for the most part, of a petty character, and that most Suits are for small amounts.

Classification of Suits.

10. It may be interesting to trace the increase of litigation through the several classes of Suits :—

Suits for or connected with —	No. of Cases. 1863.	1864.
Inheritance, adoption, and partition of family property	112	170
Dower, Marriage, Betrothal, &c., &c. ..	213	202
Religious Shrines and customary Fees ..	118	111
Personal Service	399	496
Mortgages	103	71
Tenancy and right of pre-emption in houses	323	359
Specific performance, or damages for non-performance of Contracts	255	429
Torts	423	388
Partnership	163	177
Debt on Registered Bonds	721	225
Debt other than on Registered Bonds	21,692	22,555
Other suits not included in the above: Real property ..	1,057	1,304
Other suits not included in the above: Personal property ..	819	1,720

It will be observed that the heading of Debt on Registered Bonds forms an exception to the general increase. It will be explained hereafter that the people cannot as yet be induced to resort to registration.

Suits for Debt.

11. Of the suits for Debt, 5,599 in the year 1863 and 7,511 in the year 1864 were between Bankers and Agriculturists. This proportion, though increasing, is perhaps not so large as might be expected, as compared with the sum total of litigation. Perhaps the double relation which landlords bear to their tenants may, in part at least, account for this. It may be remembered that, in these Provinces, the prevailing tenure is that of small landlords. These landlords usually lend both money and seed to their tenants. Thus it is that tenants resort to money-lenders much less than might otherwise be expected. Now a tenant cannot readily break with his landlord, to whom he is bound by stronger ties than he would be to a mere money-lender. And thus it is that landlords seldom have to sue their tenants for money lent. In some respects, this may be considered to be a happy state of things.

Average Costs.

12. In my previous Report, it was shown that, with all their shortcomings, our Officers are diligent in business; and that promptitude and cheapness are secured. These advantages continue to exist. Out of 33,295 Cases for disposal during the year, there were only 544 pending at the close of it. The average costs of these Suits was 8 per cent. on their value.

against 9 per cent. in the preceding year. The average duration of Suits during the year 1864 was eleven days, as compared with nineteen days in the year 1863. Without doubt, the average duration was quite as short as could fairly be expected. There might indeed be room for question whether full time was always left by the Courts for complying with all the requirements of the Procedure Code. The attention of the Judicial Commissioner has been given to the matter, and if there be any defect therein, it will be rectified.

Average duration of Cases.

13. The mode in which Cases were disposed of in the year 1864 may be thus shown :—

Classification of Decisions.

	1864.
Struck off on default	3,800
Judgment confessed	10,666
Decided exparte	2,936
Decided after trial	11,200
Settled out of Court by compromise	4,130

Out of the Cases which were decided after trial, 75 per cent. went in favor of Plaintiffs in whole or in part, and 25 per cent. in favor of Defendants.

14. The number of Appeals preferred to the Superior Courts, which was decreasing in previous years, has continued to decrease during the year under review. Only 1,378 Appeals were preferred in the year 1864, against 1,468 in the year 1863. In the Appeals preferred to Deputy Commissioners, 69 per cent. of the orders were wholly upheld, 21 per cent. reversed, and 10 per cent. modified. In the Appeals preferred to the Courts of Commissioners, 77 per cent. of the orders were upheld, 14 per cent. reversed, and 9 per cent. modified. The general result, so far as it can be accepted as a criterion, is favorable to the lower Courts, and would tend to show that the original work was well done.

Appellate business.

15. Some explanation of the paucity of Appeals may be found in the complicated and, perhaps, somewhat tedious requirements of the Appellate Procedure Law (a defect noticed in my last Report), and also in the want of duly qualified Pleaders who could prosecute Appeals, and thus save the time and money of Appellants.

16. The average duration of Appeals was 187 days in the year 1864, to 368 days in the year 1863; but a much smaller average duration will be achieved in the year 1865.

17. The two Small Cause Courts of Nagpore and Jubbulpore have been at work during the year 1864 as in the year 1863. The number of Cases instituted in the year 1864 was about the same in each Court. The number of Cases, in all was 13 per cent. more than the number instituted in the year 1863. Both these Courts are held in high estimation by the people, and the presiding Judges perform the duties well and expeditiously.

Small Cause Courts.

18. Among the Miscellaneous business which came before the Civil Courts during the year 1864, were 18,908 claims for Execution of Decree; of these, 98 per cent. were disposed of during the year, and 5 per cent. remained pending at its close.

Execution of Decrees.

19. There is one point in respect to which shortcoming must still be admitted. The Judicial Commissioner finds that the Courts have not really done as much as was expected of them in regard to the elimination of Issues,—a matter provided for by the Code of Procedure, as being essential to the due trial of Causes. His attention is being specially given to the better enforcement of this rule.

Elimination of Issues.

20. The want of a Native Bar, with proper position, character, and attainments was noticed in my previous Report. The new rules for the admission of Pleaders were in force during the year 1864, but none of the candidates succeeded in passing the examinations which were held. It may be mentioned, however, that the candidates at subsequent examinations, during the current year, have been more successful, and that there are now about twenty authorized Pleaders in our Courts. It is to be hoped that this number will increase.

Authorized Pleaders.

21. In my last Report, it was stated that in some of the principal Courts, Clerks of the Court with defined functions and responsibilities have been substituted for the old class of Native ministerial officials. The Clerks of the Court who have been appointed do certainly seem to be men of a superior stamp. If the measure shall answer the expectations formed, then its extension will be advocated.

Clerks of the Court.

22. Contracting parties avail themselves but little of the facilities offered for registering Assurances. The Legislature has under its consideration the introduction of a Bill to provide for the Central Provinces a modified Law of Registration.

Registration of Assurances.

23. The necessity for using the Mahratta language for all Departments affecting the Natives of the country of Nagpore Proper, was explained in my previous Report. Though this language had within the two past years been adopted for all the Fiscal and Executive Departments, its adoption in the Civil Courts had not been rendered quite complete. It has now been finally decided and notified, that this is the language to be used in all the Courts of Justice within certain specified districts around Nagpore; while Hindoostanee continues to be the language for the Courts of the Northern and Eastern Districts of these Provinces.

Language of the Courts.

24. I shall conclude this Section by quoting the Judicial Commissioner, who says that "a continued pressure of supervision on the Courts has been kept up during the year, and that, to the best of his judgment, good progress has been made."

Section II.—Criminal Justice.

25. Following the same order as in my previous Reports, I shall examine this subject under two heads; *first*, the state of Crime; *second*, the action of the Courts.

26. Firstly, in respect to the state of Crime generally, the subjoined Table will enable the reader to follow up the comparison made in my previous Reports, between the return of Crime in these Provinces and in other neighbouring Provinces:—

Comparison of Crime in the Central Provinces and in other Places.

	Central Provinces.	Punjab.	Oudh.	Madras.	British Burmah.	North-Western Provinces.
	Assumed Population, inclusive of Zemindarees, 9,000,000	Population 15,000,000	Population 9,000,000	Population 24,000,000	Population 2,000,000	Population 30,000,000
	1863.	1863.	1863.	1863.	1863.	1863.
Murder	86	187	79	226	58	232
Culpable Homicide	27	90	49	unknown	10	unknown
Rape	19	150	50	34	51	Do.
Dacoity	*54	37	33	869	152	342
Robbery	62	150	130	544	121	
House breaking & House Tresspass	5,512	4,889	28,986	7,603	320	12,002
Theft	9,600	12,484		13,673	5,123	25,994
Total	15,360	17,987	29,327	22,949	5,835	38,570

* Includes 16 cases in Sumbulpore.

Aggregate of Crime in the Central Provinces.

27. The following Extract from the Judicial Review of the year under report will show that there is an increase of reported Cases:—

	Non-bailable.	*Bailable.*	*Total.*
1863	15,695	10,480	26,175
1864	16,805	13,851	30,656
Increase	1,110	3,371	4,481

28. This Return then exhibits an increase. But the increase is not general, for it is chiefly confined to minor and less heinous cases. There is no increase of the worst crimes; on the contrary, there is a decrease. And it will be seen that much of the increase in the Non-bailable Cases is owing to increasing willingness of the people to bring their small grievances before the Courts.

29. Of the eight worst kinds of Crime, there was a general decrease, as will be seen thus :—

Year.	Murder.	Attempt to Murder.	Culpable Homicide not amounting to Murder.	Dacoity.	Robbery.	Attempt at Robbery.	Administering stupifying Drugs with intent to cause hurt.	Rape.	Total.
1862	98	14	29	61	84	..	2	52	340
1863	116	16	37	73	67	..	5	42	356
1864	92	13	20	32	76	8	3	33	277

Decrease of Heinous Crimes.

30. The total of these most Heinous Crimes in the year 1864 shows a diminution of 22 per cent. as compared with the year 1863, and of 18 per cent. as compared with the year 1862. This result is so far satisfactory.

31. All kinds of Murder and Homicide show a sensible decrease : and of the murders that did occur, several were committed by madmen. Perhaps this may indicate (though it is premature to speculate with certainty) that the habits of the people are becoming less violent. It is still, however, shocking to find that murders are committed on the persons of supposed witches. These witchcraft cases are confined to the Eastern, or Chutteesgurh country. Efforts are made for suppressing this crime, which will, it is hoped, cease in time. The Returns for two consecutive years, since special attention has been directed to the point, seem to show that Poisoning and administering Poisonous Drugs are rare.

Gradual repression of Dacoity.

32. The marked diminution of Dacoity is partly due to the extinction of political trouble in Sumbulpore. But irrespectively of this, there has been a real diminution of the crime in the country generally. Not only have there been fewer cases, but of those cases which did happen, many are of a comparatively mild type. Again, the old gangs have been broken up, and the professional Dacoits have been hunted down. Of these men, there were 91 captured within the year. In some captures, there has been evinced much of detective patience ; in others, much of dash and spirit. At length, people begin to believe that there are few of the practised and regular Dacoits left. Much of this

result is due to the special Agency which has been organized and employed for the purpose. Therefore, without taking too sanguine a view of what has been done, or of what may be expected, I may say that the Police do seem to be making head against this evil, and that Dacoity is likely to be much reduced. But looking to the wild character of many parts of the country, the equally wild disposition of the tribes inhabiting such tracts, to the circumstance of the Native States surrounding us almost on all sides, I cannot tell whether this crime will be altogether eradicated.

Petty Robbery.

33. Robbery has not sensibly diminished. Despite the multiplication of Police posts on the Trunk Lines, and the patrolling day and night, the Mail is sometimes robbed. But in a country such as this, where thoroughfares pass now through a cultivated and inhabited country, and now through miles of desolation or of forest, the facilities for the commission of the crime are really extraordinary. Its suppression is, indeed, almost beyond hope. Here again, however, many of the cases are of a mild character, the violence being slight, and the amounts plundered being petty. The Returns of three consecutive years show that Rape and Adultery are comparatively rare. The character of the population is fair in these respects. It is noteworthy, that the Return of Offences against the Coin shows an increase. No clear conclusion can perhaps be drawn from this, but attention is being given to the point. As explained on previous occasions, Infanticide is practically unknown; and Thuggee, having been suppressed by the Thuggee Department, does not seem again to have reared its head since the abolition of that Department.

Other Crimes.

General result.

34. On the whole, then, in respect of the worst kinds of Crime, the state of things is satisfactory. And the Report of this year bears out what was said in my last Report; namely, that British rule decidedly tends to the suppression of these crimes. The increase shown in the Returns relate chiefly to Offences against Property.

Increase of certain kinds of Crime:

its probable explanation.

35. Under the head of Burglary with Lurking House Trespass (5,233 cases) there is an increase. Again, under the head of Ordinary Theft there is an increase from 8,387 to 9,019 cases. Of this increase in the Return, a part is, no doubt, due to improved reporting. The landholders have learnt the lesson which has been inculcated for the last two years, and have become particular in reporting crime. The sufferers, too, finding that the Police system is less troublesome than they had perhaps supposed, and that they are not forced to prosecute in petty Cases unless they choose to do so, have little or no hesitation in declaring their wrongs. Still the improved reporting is not always fairly assignable as the sole cause of the increased Return, for an examination in detail of the Returns of the various districts, shows that, in all probability, there is a real decrease in some places and a real increase in others.

36. On the other hand, the proportion recovered out of the aggregate of Property stolen has risen to 34 per cent., or Rs. 1,00,515 (£10,051) recovered out of Rs. 3,03,408 (£30,341) stolen. And the successful prosecutions of Receivers of Stolen Property are increasing yearly.

Recovery of stolen Property.

37. Under the head of Cattle stealing, the returns continue each year to show a decrease. The Return for the year 1864 shows 1,208 Cases against 1,304 in the year 1863 Repressive measures have, no doubt, been adopted with more or less success in the districts which offered peculiar facilities for, and temptations to, the commission of this crime. Still the Authorities have been warned not to accept the Returns too readily as a proof of there being a real decrease.

Cattle Theft.

38. Under the heading of Offences not cognizable by the Police, the increased Return (11,756 in the year 1864 to 10,368 in the year 1863) is, on the whole, a favorable symptom, as it merely shows that the people are becoming more and more ready to bring their grievances before the Courts. In the present condition of the people this is good.

Increase in Complaints for petty Offences.

39. I now come, secondly, to the action of the Courts :—

The despatch of business appears to be brought to nearly the highest pitch practicable, and indicates much diligence on the part of the Magisterial Officers. Out of 21,887 Cases for disposal before the Courts during the year, there were only 34 pending at the close of it; and out of 39,581 persons for trial during the year, there were only 154 under trial at the end. Out of 56,462 witnesses summoned during the year, 51,582 were detained for one day only. The average duration of Cases prepared by the Police was only four days, and of those which were preferred by complaint, and not prepared by the Police, was seven days.

Despatch of Business.

40. So far as the merits of the proceedings can be tested by statistics at all, it is to be observed that out of 39,581 persons tried before the Magistrates within the year 22,718, or 58 per cent., were convicted or committed to the Sessions. Care has been taken that the total should fairly include, not only all persons regularly acquitted, but all those discharged through failure of complainants to prosecute, or released at the instance of the Police. Thus it appears that the general proportion of 58, above-mentioned, is as good as could be expected. This is a point in which anything like straining for an apparently good result would do mischief.

Results of Trials generally.

41. But if the detail of the more serious crimes be examined, the proportion of successful prosecutions will be found to be greater. Thus, out of 13,412 persons brought up by the Police before the Magistrate, 10,179, or 76 per cent., were convicted. This is creditable to the Police.

Results of Trials for heavy Crimes.

42. To prosecute this subject a little further, I shall cite some useful

observations made by the Judicial Commissioner, Mr. J. S. Campbell. Regarding Cognizable Offences, Mr. Campbell writes:—

Murder.

"Against the 92 Cases committed, we find that 137 cases of Murder, or supposed Murder, were enquired into; some, no doubt, belonged to preceding years. In the course of mere enquires, 347 people were arrested; of these, 64 were afterwards released at the instance of Police, and 283 were brought before the Magistrate. Of this latter number, 157 were committed to the Sessions. This shows that Murder has been successfully dealt with by the District Authorities.

Attempts to Murder.

43. "Against 13 Offences committed, we find 11 persons, out of 25 arrested, committed to the Court of Sessions, which is fairly satisfactory.

Culpable Homicide.

44. "Against 20 Cases supposed to have been committed, we have 13 persons committed to the Sessions, and 12 convicted before the Deputy Commissioners with powers under Act XV. of 1862. As usual in this offence, most of the offenders have been brought to justice.

Dacoity.

45. "Against 32 Dacoitees shown to have been committed in the year, we find 342 persons were arrested or otherwise for disposal; of whom 115 were committed to the Sessions, and 50 convicted before the Deputy Commissioners. Thus more than five persons were convicted or committed for every Dacoity that took place. Considering the difficulty of proving this crime, it will, I think, be acknowledged that much success has been attained.

Robbery.

46. "Against 84 Robberies and Attempts to commit Robbery, we have 21 persons committed to the Sessions and 54 convicted by Magistrates. This, too, is satisfactory. On the whole, the above shows that much success has been attained in the prosecution of the more aggravated class of Offences."

47. The manner in which punishments were inflicted, may be illustrated by a few facts as follows:—

Analysis of Punishments awarded.

"By Magistrates exercising powers under Act XV. of 1862, 25 persons were sentenced to transportation for seven years, and 183 for terms of imprisonment exceeding two years. By all the Magistrates, 6,263 persons have been sentenced to terms of imprisonment of two years and under. Of these, 4,898 persons were for terms of six months and under. This shows that judicious moderation was exercised in the award of imprisonment. In 1,809 Cases fine has been superadded to imprisonment. There were 13,182 persons sentenced to fine alone. This shows that fine is becoming more and more resorted to, which is satisfactory. Of the total of fines inflicted, Rs. 1,70,531 (£17,053), there were realized Rs. 126,864 (£12,686); out of which again, Rs. 26,605 (£2,660) were paid to sufferers. The new Whipping Act was in force

only during the latter half of the year. There were 1,142 persons whipped; of these, 130 were juvenile offenders. So far, there seems to have been fair effect given to the new law.

Working of superior Courts.

48. In respect to the working of the superior Criminal Courts, it will suffice to state that 16 persons were capitally executed, 87 sentenced to transportation for life, 114 to various terms of transportation. There were 458 Appeals disposed of, with an average duration of ten days each; a fact indicating promptitude. The delays in the disposal of Sessions trials, which used to occur, have now ceased for the past two years; and the average duration is now brought within two months. This duration (though susceptible of further dimunition) will not appear excessive, if it be remembered that these cases (which are few in number) have to be tried in the district where they occurred, and that the Judges (or Commissioners) have to come from a distance to hold Sessions.

General conduct of the Criminal Courts.

49. In respect to the general conduct of the Criminal Courts, I shall again cite the testimony of the Judicial Commissioner. Mr. Campbell writes :—

"In procedure the Courts have made very good progress. There is hardly a Magistrate or Subordinate Magistrate in the Central Provinces some of whose cases I have not examined. Although, of course, mistakes are still common, I believe that we have attained a very fair proficiency."

50. The general result, taken as a whole, appears fair. Still, in many districts taken separately, faults more or less serious will be found. Again, the Officers, as a body, have done right-well. Still, individuals have done more or less ill; and within the year it has been necessary to remove two Magisterial Officers from their appointments for repeatedly failing to obey the Law.

Honorary Magistrates.

51. There have been 41 Honorary Magistrates at work in the various districts of these Provinces within the year. Of these, three are Europeans, and the rest natives of India. Regarding their work, the Judicial Commissioner, Mr. Campbell, writes as follows :—

"The Honorary Magistrates have done a large share of the work in the Provinces. They have decided 4,005 cases, and have, I believe, done substantial justice, though their attention to procedure is not of the strictest. The Honorary Magistrates of the Nagpore City have been especially zealous."

Section III.—Police.

Strength of Police Force.

52. The past history and present constitution of the Police in these Provinces has been fully described in my previous Reports. The Establishment during the year stood as below :—

	Men	Rs.	£.
Regular Police paid from Government Revenue	6,883	11,42,327	114,233
Municipal Police paid from Local Funds	1,455	1,04,215	10,421
Total, ...	8,338	12,46,542	124,654

This is much the same as in the previous year.

Success of Police in tracing out Crime.

53. The result of the Police Administration, in respect to the detection and repression of Crime, has been largely alluded to in the preceding Section on Criminal Justice. But, in further elucidation of the matter, as specially concerning the conduct of the Police, I subjoin the following Extract from the Returns, which will illustrate the action of the Police, in respect to the most notable crimes, in the years 1863 and 1864 :—

	Of cases reported, apprehensions were made in		Of persons sent to Magistrate for trial, there were convicted.	
	Cases per cent.		Cases per cent.	
	1863	1864	1863	1864
Murder	82·	94·5	80·	73·
Dacoity	57·	73·5	48·	73·
Robbery with hurt	50·	74·	62·	80·
Robbery	47·	57·9	50·	69·4

These statistics indicate much improvement, and tell in favor of the Police.

Miscellaneous duties of Police.

54. As shown in my previous Reports, the miscellaneous and administrative duties of our Police have been always heavy. During this year they have been heavier than ever. In the year 1864 the Police have daily patrolled 5,105 miles of road; have guarded daily 4,000 prisoners in Jail; have safely escorted Rs. 91,81,311 (£918,131) of treasure, and have guarded Rs. 86,00,000 (£860,000) in the various Treasuries. Moreover, they have planted 23,275 trees and shrubs around their posts.

55. Though the Police have improved in detective ability, yet it is admitted on all hands that this is the weakest point in the Force, as it now exists. It is true that, during the year, there have been conspicuous instances of this sort of ability on the part of individual Policemen. Still we want more men of superior cleverness and intelligence; or, in common language, our Police ought to have more "*head*" than it has. Improvement, however, can be best effected, not by creating a special Detective branch, which might engender abuses, but by raising the general qualification of the Force as a body.

Detective ability still wanting in Police.

56. The relations between the Police and the Magistracy is a matter which has received much attention. In the year 1862, it was complained that the Police were too independent of the Magistracy, and that the responsibility and the moral force of the latter were unduly diminished. In the year 1863, this complaint diminished somewhat, though it still existed. In the year 1864, it has happily almost ceased. Such is the testimony of the Judicial Commissioner, the Divisional Commissioners, and the Magistrates. To make quite sure, I caused a Circular to be issued to the Magistrates, specially enquiring on this point. The replies seem to show that, without doubt, the Police in every district is under the general control of the Magistrate according to the intent and wording of the Law, and that the Magistrates realize and act up to their responsibility for the repression and detection of crime.

Relations between the Police and the Magistrates.

57. The Civil Officers generally testify to the general fair repute of the Police in their dealings with, and demeanour towards, the people at large. I have every reason to believe that the character thus given of the Police is correct, and that they are rather popular than otherwise with the people. It is to be observed, however, that the instances of Policemen punished for corruption or oppression might appear considerable. This does not, however, detract seriously from the estimation of the Force generally, but rather seems to show that there is a strict supervision, and no lack of prosecutors whenever a policeman does misbehave.

Bearing of the Police towards the people.

58. Again, both the Magistrates and the Divisional Commissioners give decisive testimony to the marked improvement effected in the Police Department during the year. This, too, is fully borne out by the Judicial Commissioner. Considering that these various authorities have the best means of judging, and have every reason to form an impartial and unbiased judgment, that testimony may be accepted. Indeed, it seems now an acknowledged fact that the new Police is a great reform over the old; a fact which is probably not doubted by any person in these Provinces, European or Native.

Improvement effected during the year.

59. It is to be regretted that more has not been done as yet to provide buildings for the accommodation of the Police. But financial means have been wanting. More-

Police Buildings.

over; it was necessary to have a set of standard plans prepared for the various kinds of buildings. This has now been prepared; and formally sanctioned by the Supreme Government; and it is hoped that a yearly sum will be devoted to the gradual construction of the permanent buildings.

Section IV.—Jails.

60. During the year under report there has been occasion to compare the existing Jail management in these Provinces with the system recommended by the Indian Jail Committee of the year 1864. In a special Report, I have shown in detail that many of the Committee's suggestions are already in full force here, but that some of their suggestions cannot yet be carried out, until our Jail buildings (now under construction) shall be further advanced.

Indian Jail Committee's Report.

61. One of the main causes to which the Committee fairly attribute sickness and mortality, is *overcrowding*. That disadvantage cannot, as yet, be wholly provided against till the new buildings are ready. Meanwhile, it has been mitigated as much as possible, by transferring prisoners from crowded jails to jails where spare accomodation might be found, and by the erection of temporary extra accommodation within Prison walls, where necessary. Another cause, that of *sleeping on the ground*, has been obviated by the erection, in the sleeping wards, of raised earthen berths, so constructed as to prevent damp and cold.

Overcrowding not as yet quite remedied.

62. The other causes of mischief, as enumerated by the Committee, have already been provided against. Thus lateral and roof *ventilation*, suitable to the climate of the place, has everywhere been provided for. Dry earth *conservancy* was brought into practice in all Jails early in the year 1863, with the best results. The saucer drain has been adopted, and no deep, open drains exist. The *clothing* is ample, and good of its kind. The *water* for drinking and cooking purposes is either filtered or boiled before use. *Weakly prisoners* are not permitted to labour, or their labour is moderated to their condition. And lastly, *medical inspection*, especially during the prevalence of epidemics, is duly provided for each Jail.

Suggestions of the Committee how acted upon.

63. Again, most of the Committee's suggestions are acted on, as will be seen from the following particulars:—

The separation of juvenile from adult delinquents (of whom there were 249 during the year) is carried out everywhere as effectually as the old Jail buildings will allow. This separation will be more complete when the new Central Jails shall have been built.

Segregation of juvenile Prisoners.

Female Convicts.

64. For females complete and separate accommodation is provided in all Jails. Male convicted prisoners are classified according to the nature of their crimes and the punishment awarded, by distinctively colored dresses. The Jail dietary is good. The scale is varied occasionally in times of sickness, on the recommendation of the medical Officer. Diminution of food as a punitive measure is prohibited. The Jail Gardens are in good condition, and yield a sufficient supply of fruit and vegetables. Jail discipline is maintained. The medical Officers in charge of Jails perform the duty of superintendence, and are invested with magisterial powers (in subordination to the District Magistrates) to punish breaches of Prison discipline. A scale showing the full measure of a day's work for the different kinds of labor has been prescribed; and labor is exacted by task-work.

Classification of male Prisoners.

Jail Diet.

Jail Gardens.

Internal discipline.

65. The object of making labor remunerative has not been lost sight of. The net cash profits of Prison manufactures amounted to Rs. 24,876 (£2,488) in the year 1864, against Rs. 9,562 (£956) in the previous year. The indirect profits from prison labor employed on manufactures for prison use, in the repair of Jails, and in other extra-mural public works, amounted to Rs. 40,872 (£4,087) in the year 1864, against Rs. 13,000 (£1,300) in the year 1863. In these ways, the laboring prisoner has been made to work out all but Rs. 11 (£1 2*s.* 0*d.*) of the cost of his maintenance during the year.

Profits of Jail labor.

66. Again, as an incentive to good conduct in Jail, labor has been classified into "Hard," "Medium," and "Light," and a prisoner not convicted of the more heinous crimes may, by uniform or special good conduct and industry, earn the reward of a gradual mitigation of labor by transfer from one to the other class. Or he may earn the subordinate office of Work Overseer, Ward-master, or Guard. The rules framed for these ends have been formally sanctioned.

The Good Conduct system.

67. There has been, as might have been expected from the gradual rise in the cost of all the necessaries of life, a slight, but unavoidable, increase in the average total cost of a prisoner in the year 1864, as compared with the previous year. In the year 1863 it was Rs. 45-6-6 (£4 10*s.* 9¾*d.*), in the year 1864 Rs. 50-13-7 (£5 1*s.* 8¼*d.*). But it is to be remembered that, at most of the Head-quarter stations where this expenditure is incurred, a free laborer could not comfortably subsist according to his station on less than Rs. 50-13-7 per annum. Hence it will be apparent, that to *maintain and guard* a prisoner for rather less than that amount, must demand the exercise of every practicable economy. Indeed, out of the Rs. 50-13-7 expended on a prisoner, the proportion due to Guards and Establishments amounted to Rs. 22-7-9 (£2 5*s.* 0*d.*). If this amount

Average cost of Prisoners.

of 22 rupees be deducted, it will be found that the prisoner has been furnished with board and lodging, with clothing and bedding, with medicines and extra nourishment when sick, and with all the miscellaneous necessaries coming under the general head of "Contingencies," at a cost of only Rs. 28-5-10 per annum, or 1 anna and $2\frac{3}{4}$ pies, or about 2*d*., per diem.

Health of Prisoners.

The Death-rate.

68. There has been a decrease in the Prison mortality as compared with the year previous, notwithstanding the outbreak of epidemic disease in eight out of the eighteen Jails. In the year 1863, the Death-rate was 10·14 per cent.; in the year 1864, 7·67 per cent. Wherever epidemic disease manifested itself, the prisoners were at once moved into tents, and every precaution taken to prevent the spread of the epidemic with the best results. Still $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of deaths is a high rate; that rate, however, is, according to existing practice everywhere, calculated on the average daily strength of prisoners in Jail. If the deaths, 322, be calculated on the actual number of prisoners (*i. e.*, prisoners in Jail on 1st January 4,258, plus the number admitted during the year 11,252—total 15,510), the mortality-rate would be only 2·01 per cent.

The Sick-rate.

The Sick-rate also fell from 6·01 per cent. in the year 1863 to 5·75 per cent. in the year 1864. There were 6,853 sick admitted for treatment, of whom 322 died, being at the rate of 4·70 per cent. of deaths to prisoners treated.

New Jails under construction.

69. The most important measure of reform, is the provision of Jail accommodation; that is, the construction of new buildings. Four Central Jails are now being built at Nagpore, Raepore, Jubbulpore, and Hoshungabad. The buildings at Nagpore and Raepore are well advanced. New District Jails or Lock-ups have been, or are being built at Sironcha, Wurdah, Sumbulpore, Khundwa, and Mundla on approved designs. And at the remaining Jails, alterations and additions have been made so as to give to each prisoner the prescribed cubic capacity of space.

Total number of Prisoners.

70. The total number of prisoners was 4,131 in the year 1863 and 4,074 in the year 1864. The operation of the Whipping Act will, it is hoped, continue to diminish this number.

Instruction of Prisoners.

71. There has been some advance in instructing prisoners in reading and writing. The number under instruction has risen from 2,664 in the year 1863 to 2,754 in the year 1864; the number who could both read and write, increased from 264 in the year 1863 to 297 in the year 1864; and the number who could read only, from 1,300 in the year 1863 to 1,677 in the year 1864.

Escapes.

72. Escapes, excluding those who had been recaptured, fell from 42 in the year 1863 to 7 in the year 1864. This indicates increased vigilance.

CHAPTER II.

REVENUE.

SECTION I.—LAND TAX.

Collections of the past and present year.

73. In the year 1863-64 the demand on account of the Land Tax stood at Rs. 55,64,681 (£556,468), while the actual collections amounted to Rs. 52,76,513 (£527,651). In the year 1864-65 the demand on account of the year, added to outstanding demands on account of previous years, amounted to Rs. 59,99,674 (£599,967), while the actual collections amounted to Rs. 54,90,427 (£549,042). In every year there are items of Land Tax on the rent-roll, which, from some circumstance or another, never actually fall due. If, after deducting these unrealizable items from the Land Tax of the years 1863-64 and of 1864-65, and after deducting also the outstanding balances of former years, the Land Tax demand of each year be compared with the collections, it will be found that in the year 1863-64, 98·53 per cent. of the realizable demand was collected, while in the year 1864-65, 99·92 per cent. was collected. In previous Reports it has been acknowledged that there was much room for improvement in the punctual collection of the Land Tax, though some improvement had year by year been effected. But for the demand of 1864-65 a fair and sufficient punctuality of collection has now been achieved. The entire demand is collected to within an inappreciable fraction, and there is scarcely any room left for further improvement.

74. Although the crops of the year 1864-65 were below the average in several districts, yet the collections were made with very little resort to coercive processes. A few unthrifty landholders are to be found in every district; and towards such persons occasional coercion may be necessary; but, as a rule, the Government Land Tax is everywhere paid in punctually.

Progress of the regular Settlement.

75. The work of the regular Settlement has been vigorously prosecuted in fifteen districts, comprising four-fifths of these Provinces.

Assessment of the Land Tax.

76. The Land Tax of 6,340 villages or estates was regularly assessed during the year; the assessments amounted to Rs. 15,94,326 (£159,432), or more than a quarter of the land revenue of the Central Provinces. Less than one-fifth of the land revenue remains for assessment.

77. In ten districts assessments were effected. In five of those districts the result was an enhancement, and in five a reduction of the Land Tax. The net result of all the assessments made during the year was an increase of Rs. 1,02,835 (£10,283), or 7 per cent. on the amount of Land Tax which came under revison. As stated in former Reports, the new assessments are moderate, and they have everywhere been accepted by the landholders. For the districts where assessments have been completed, the annual incidence of the Land Tax may be shown thus :—

Result and quality of Asessments,

and their incidence.

In Nagpore it falls at	12 annas	5 pies, or	18$\frac{5}{8}$*d.*		
„ Nursingpore „	„ 12 annas	4 pies, or	18$\frac{1}{2}$*d.*		
„ Jubbulpore „	„ 11 annas	10 pies, or	17$\frac{3}{4}$*d.*		per acre
„ Saugor „	„ 11 annas	5 pies, or	17$\frac{1}{8}$*d.*		of culti-
„ Dumoh „	„ 11 annas	5 pies, or	17$\frac{1}{8}$*d.*	}	vated
„ Wurdah „	„ 10 annas	8 pies, or	16*d.*		land per
„ Hoshungabad „	„ 9 annas	6 pies, or	14$\frac{1}{4}$*d.*		annum.
„ Seonee „	„ 6 annas	2 pies, or	9$\frac{1}{4}$*d.*		
„ Baitool „	„ 4 annas	7 pies, or	6$\frac{7}{8}$*d.*		

The Land Tax of the Central Provinces, as it now stands, falls at 8 annas 8 pies, or 13*d.*, per acre of cultivated land per annum. These land-tax rates may be low, compared with the rates which obtain in North-Western India; but there is much in the scarcity of labor, the comparative sparseness of the population, and in the past fiscal history of some districts, to account for the lightness of the Land Tax.

78. The adjustment and registration of landed tenures and of tenant right—a very important branch of a regular Settlement—has been brought almost to completion in the districts of Saugor, Dumoh, Nursingpore, Seonee, Wurdah, Nagpore, and Bhundara; it has been quite finished in the districts of Baitool and Hoshungabad. The ascertainment and record of superior proprietary rights has now been completed over almost the whole of the Central Provinces; the rights of 10·928 proprietors of holdings were investigated and recorded during the year; the status of, and the rent payable by 1,22,536 tenants, with right of occupancy under Act X. of 1859, were ascertained and recorded; and the rents agreed upon by 210,755 tenants-at-will, with their landlords, were registered.

Record of agricultural rights.

79. The other stages of a regular Settlement have also been advanced. Measurements of villages or estates, field by field, have been nearly completed; so have the investigations with revenue-free tenures. Only a few boundary disputes remain for decision.

Other operations of the Settlement.

80. Two and a half million acres have been adjudged during the year to be excess waste, available for sale under the rules; and the demarcation of these wastes has been effected in eight districts. Registers, with full descriptive details of all waste lands available for sale, are

Demarcation of Waste Lands.

being prepared, and will shortly be ready for publication.

Suits between Landlord and Tenant.

81. The total number of cases decided in the Revenue Courts under the "Law of Landlord and Tenant," was 5,220, besides 1,219 petitions for execution of Decree. 50 cases and 41 petitions for execution were undecided at the close of the year. This small amount of litigation must not be understood to show that there is in the Central Provinces any remarkable accord between landlords and their tenants; it merely shows that the majority of disputes regarding landlords' rights or tenant-right are adjusted before the Officers of the Settlement Department.

The Professional Revenue Survey.

82. The three Professional Revenue Survey Parties previously employed in the Central Provinces have been at work in the districts of Dumoh, Hoshungabad, and Raepore; they surveyed during the year 3,467 square miles. A fourth party entered the Central Provinces, and broke ground in the Chanda District during the year; they arrived too late to do more than make a beginning last open season.

General agricultural prosperity.

83. The condition of the agricultural classes generally continues to be very prosperous. Last year's harvests were not actually abundant in any district, nor were they in most districts even good average harvests. Still the outturn, taking all crops together, was nowhere absolutely bad; in most tracts it was fair. While the yield of produce was thus fair, there were high prices. In parts of the Wurdah Valley District, the price of wheat throughout the year 1864-65 ranged at about the prices which ruled at Delhi and Agra in the famine years of 1860-61. For months together, the price of wheat in the Wurdah country stood at 8 seers the rupee, or 64 shillings a quarter. The price of cotton fluctuated, and fell much during the year; but the losers by the fall were mainly the cotton dealers; for most growers sold the crops at the high prices of the year 1864 before the cotton was ready for picking. During the year there have been large imports of cattle into the Central Provinces, so that the price of plough-oxen has fallen about 20 per cent. This again is favorable to the farmer. Farm wages, however, have either continued to rise, or have maintained the high rates of last year. As the Settlement operations are drawing to a close proprietors are beginning to feel secure of their position, and to realize the value of the rights they hold in their lands. When these rights become more fully appreciated, the prosperity and wealth of the land-holding community will rapidly advance.

Section II.—Other Taxes (Salt Tax, Excise on Spirits and Liquors, Stamps, &c.).

Salt Duties.

84. The various sources from which the supply of salt for these Provinces is drawn, and the peculiar position of our Salt Tax, have been fully explained in my previous Reports. The receipts for the year 1863-64 were Rs. 13,80,231 (£138,023), while the receipts for the year 1864-65 amounted to Rs. 15,93,617 (£159,361). This increase has accrued without any alteration in the rate of duty, and without any perceptible rise in the selling price of salt in the Central Provinces' markets. In my last Report, I mentioned the substitution of the Imperial or regular Customs Line for the temporary Local Line along our Western Frontier. That measure was carried out within the year,—from Saugor, on the borders of Bundlekhund, to Chanda near the Godavery, a distance of 261 miles. So much success ensued, it was decided to carry on the Line from the banks of the Godavery northwards, so as to round our Eastern, or Chutteesgurh, and Mahanuddy Frontier, a distance of 340 miles. This, added to the distance already stated, makes a total length of 601 miles. The work has been performed with remarkable zeal and promptitude by the Customs Department, and there is every prospect of further fiscal advantage being the result.

Imperial Customs Lines.

Nimar Salt Tax.

85. A local or temporary Salt Customs Line was thrown round the Nimar District early in the year under Report. This measure has produced some revenue, but the success has not been considerable.

Sugar Duty.

86. The peculiar nature of our Sugar Duties has been described in my previous Reports. The revenue from the duty on the export westwards of Saccharine produce has fallen from Rs. 1,41,024 (£14,102) in the year 1863-64 to Rs. 94,097 (£9,409) in the year 1864-65. When the alteration and extension of the Imperial Line, which has resulted in so large an enhancement of the Salt revenue, was undertaken, it was foreseen that some decrease in the receipts on account of Sugar duty would result from the change. Now that the Customs cordon has been pushed westwards, the lower Nerbudda Valley and the Nagpore country, which formerly consumed duty-paid sugar, consume sugar which has not crossed the Line and has not paid duty.

Opium.

87. The local duty on Opium yielded Rs. 8,041 (£804) in the year 1863-64 and Rs. 7,595 (£759) in the year 1864-65. There is a small special duty levied on the cultivation of the poppy. The amount is inconsiderable.

Excise on Spirits and Drugs.

88. The revenue from Excise on Spirits and intoxicating Drugs has risen from Rs. 6,66,724 (£66,672) in the year 1863-64 to Rs. 8,77,855 (£87,785) in the year 1864-65. Of the above increase, a part, namely Rs. 1,57,708 (£15,771), accrued in the districts where the Excise revenue

is raised by the old system; that is, farming the monopoly of manufacture and vend of Spirits and Drugs. The remainder of the increase, namely Rs. 53,423 (£5,342), accrued in the districts where the Excise revenue is raised by the new system, commonly called the Sudder Distillery method; that is by still-head duty on the distillation of spirits, and by license fees leviable from retail vendors. The increase during the year has, under the old system, been at the rate of 30 per cent., and under the new system at the rate of 33 per cent. The result is due, in some districts (especially those managed under the old system), to larger consumption of spirits, consequent on the growing prosperity of the population; in other districts (especially those managed under the new system), to improved administration, and to the more complete adaptation of the system to the requirements of the people. The number of shops for the retail sale of spirits by this system, though increased from 540 to 1,038, is still only half the number which used to exist under the farming system. The retail price of diluted spirit, such as is consumed by the common people, averages from 4 annas (6*d.*) to 5 annas (7½*d.*) a quart in the Sudder Distillery districts. This price, though not so low as the prices which rule under the farming system, and which tend to encourage drinking, is still not so high as to place beyond the reach of the poorer classes such small quantities of liquor as they may, from time to time, require.

Increase under Farming and Sudder Distillery systems.

The Sudder Distillery system.

89. In paragraph 165 of my last year's Report, the superiority, on moral considerations, of the Sudder Distillery system, was adverted to. Another year's experience of the system certainly shows that this method does check the inordinate and vicious consumption of spirits, and does avoid the semblance, as well as the reality, of the temptation to drinking held out by the old system. There is a remarkable concurrence of testimony, on the part both of Europeans and Natives, that this change in our system of Excise has begun to produce a good effect on the half-civilized tribes dwelling among the hills and forests. It is further certain, that the new system has not, as yet, given *any* impetus to illicit distillation or to smuggling. It was admitted last year, that the introduction of the new system had caused a decrease in the revenue. That loss is, however, gradually disappearing. The Excise revenue, thus administered, for the year 1864-65, exceeded that of the preceding year by 54 per cent. At this rate, the sum raised under the improved system may ultimately approach that which used to be raised under the old and objectionable method.

Its moral effect.

90. In the year 1864-65 the reduction in the Income Tax was, for the first time, in operation for the whole year. The total assessments to Income Tax, therefore, were 15 per cent. less than in the year 1863-64; but, owing to

Income Tax.

increased care in collection, this Tax realized Rs. 2,26,145* (£22,614) in the year 1864-65, or only 8 per cent. less than Rs. 2,45,724* (£24,572) the collections of the year 1863-64. 98 per cent. of the demand for the year 1864-65 was collected during the year. The number of persons assessed remained at about 5,000, or nearly the same as last year. As was stated last year, one-third of the Income Tax of the Central Provinces is realized on salaries, pensions, &c., under Schedule IV.

Stamps.

91. The *net* receipts under the head of Stamp Revenue were Rs. 3,85,637 (£38,563) in the year 1863-64, while in the year 1864-65 they amounted to Rs. 4,72,609 (£47,260). This increase of 20 per cent. is due, partly to the increased prosperity of the people, partly to a more widely diffused knowledge of the requirements of the Stamp Law, and partly to improved administration of this branch of revenue. The number of non-official Stamp Vendors rose during the year from 667 to 992, and through their agency 81 per cent. of the year's Stamp revenue was realized. The number of prosecutions for breaches of the Stamp Law was 257 in the year 1864-65, against 129 in the year 1863-64—a fact which indicates increasing vigilance on the part of the authorities.

Miscellaneous Revenue.

92. In the department of "Miscellaneous Revenue," the chief item is the *Pandree* Tax, an old Mahratta impost, payable by all householders of certain trades and professions, and peculiar to the Nagpore Province. The circumstances of prescription and custom under which this Tax is levied have been explained in my previous Reports. This item amounted to Rs. 1,35,945 (£13,594) in the year 1864-65, against Rs. 92,091 (£9,209) in the year 1863-64. And further increase is expected during the year under Report. The result will be better seen in the next Report.

Section III.—Total Revenues.

93. The actual Imperial Revenues for the year 1864-65 may be compared with those for the year 1863-64 thus :—

	1864-65.†	1863-64.†
Land Revenue	54,90,427	54,61,515
Customs,—Salt, &c..	16,95,309	15,29,296
Excise on Spirits, &c. ..	8,77,855	6,66,724
Income Tax	2,26,145	2,45,724
Stamps	4,72,609	3,85,637
Forest Revenue	92,469	89,763
Miscellaneous..	1,75,584	1,77,229
Total, .. Rs.	90,30,399	Rs. 85,55,888

* These figures do not include a considerable amount of Income Tax assessed on the salaries of Military and Public Works Department Officers.

† In both computations the revenues of the newly added district of Nimar are reckoned.

There has thus been an increase under every head of revenue, with the sole exception of Income Tax—where, of course, there was a decrease, simply owing to a remission of a part of the Tax itself. The total increase amounts to Rs. 4,74,511 (£47,451), or nearly 6 per cent. on the revenues of last year. There is every reason to expect that the revenues for the year 1865-66 will again exceed those of the year 1864-65 under every head but Income Tax. It may, therefore, be considered that the revenues of the Central Provinces are increasing at a satisfactory rate.

CHAPTER III.

EDUCATION.

94. In describing the progress of Education during the year, I shall follow the same order as that observed in my last Report, and shall briefly advert to the several classes of Schools, namely:—

1.—Zillah (or District) Schools.
2.—Normal Schools.
3.—Grant-in-Aid, or Aided Schools.
4.—Town Schools.
5.—Village Schools.
6.—Female Schools.
7—Indigenous Schools.
8.—Zemindaree Schools.

Nimar Schools will be noticed separately.

95. I shall advert separately to the progress of Education in the newly added district of Nimar, where Educational Institutions were towards the end of the year placed on a new footing. The following remarks, therefore, apply to the districts of these Provinces, exclusive of Nimar.

Zillah Schools.

96. The number of Zillah Schools has remained the same as last year. The total number of pupils on the rolls of the nine Schools of this description has risen only 3 per cent. during the year, but the average daily attendance has risen 18 per cent., being 1,398 in the year 1864-65 to 1,093 in the year 1863-64. The Saugor Zillah School continues to be the best Educational Institution in these Provinces. Two of its pupils passed into the Calcutta University during the year. A new and improved course of study has been introduced into all the Zillah Schools. Two or three Scholarships have been founded at each School. After deduction of extraordinary charges on account of buildings, &c., the average cost of each boy at the Zillah Schools was Rs. 19½ (£1-19*s.* 0*d.*) during the year 1864-65, as compared with Rs. 23 (£2 6*s.* 0*d.*) during the previous year. This reduction of cost is satisfactory.

Normal Schools.

97. The number of Normal Schools for training Schoolmasters now maintained, is four. There is one of these Institutions at the following places:—Nagpore, Jubbulpore, Hoshungabad, Raepore, which are centrically situated in respect to the several parts of these Provinces. There were 113 certificated Masters passed through these Institutions during the year. The internal economy of these Institutions has been much improved during the year. The period of instruction has been extended. The

Head-mastership of the Nagpore Normal School has been placed on a new and superior status. The average cost incurred on each certificated Student who passed out of the Normal Schools during the year, was Rs. 56 (£5 12*s.* 0*d.*)

Aided Schools.

98. Of these Schools there are two classes; the first consist of Schools established and supported, directly or indirectly, by European Agency. These Schools receive Grants-in-aid from the State, proportionate to their funds derived from other sources. The other class comprises indigenous Schools, established and supported by Natives of the country. These Schools receive capitation grants proportionate to the number and proficiency of their pupils, whose acquirements are ascertained at examinations held by Officers of the Educational Department. Of the first-class there are nine Schools, in eight of which the great majority of the pupils are Natives of India. Of these eight, two belong to the Church Missionary Society at Jubbulpore. These two Schools have been very successful: one of their pupils passed into the Calcutta University, and the upper classes evinced a good knowledge of English at the annual examination. The large School attached to the Free Church Mission at Nagpore has made some progress during the year, though it is yet below the standard which had been expected. Still the Jubbulpore and Nagpore Mission Schools rank next to the Saugor School in the number and attainments of their pupils. The total number of pupils on the rolls of these aided Schools, under European management, was 1,100 at the end of the year 1864-65. Thirty-two Masters of indigenous Schools obtained capitation grants; the highest grant obtained by any one such School was Rs. 38.

Aided Mission Schools.

Aided Indigenous Schools.

Town Schools.

99. The number of Town Schools has been reduced from 102 to 93 during the year, the ten reduced Schools having been converted into Village Schools. The total number of pupils at Town Schools is 7,356 for the year 1864-65, against 7,078 for the year 1863-64. The average cost of each boy, exclusive of extraordinary charges, was Rs. 4-12-0 per annum (£0 9*s.* 6*d.*). The improvement in regularity of attendance has been considerable, and has resulted in a largely increased daily average number of boys attending School. The standard of attainments of the upper classes at Town Schools is rising; and at some of these Institutions the upper classes are beginning to learn English. As stated in previous Reports, these Schools are attended by the children of shopkeepers, petty traders, and the better class of artizans, who dwell in the many country towns scattered over the Central Provinces. At some of these Schools, Night classes for adults are held, and are fairly attended.

Village Schools.

100. The number of Village Schools in the year 1863-64 was 407, while for the year 1864-65 it is 486. The number of boys on the rolls is 13,558, against 12,089; and the average cost (excluding extraordinary charges) of each boy was Rs. 2-8-0 (£0 5*s.* 0*d.*) per annum. This increase of 20 per cent.

in the number of Village Schools, and of 25 per cent. in the number of Village schoolboys, shows that education is becoming more diffused. It is satisfactory to note that the increase of schools and pupils has been greatest in the Eastern Districts, where, as stated in last year's Report, the light of education has only just begun to glimmer. In the Village Schools of these Provinces generally, the attainments, even of the upper classes, are as yet, of course, humble. Still the Inspecting Officers are agreed that some improvement in this respect is discernible. It is, however, remarkable, as well as satisfactory, that the majority of Village schoolboys belong to the agricultural classes. Many are the sons of landholders, and of tenants of various degrees. Of all classes of the community, there are none whom the State is so much interested in educating. And if this fair prospect shall continue to brighten, we may soon hope to see, at least, common learning diffused among those sons of the soil who were not previously accustomed to education. As might be supposed, these boys have often to leave school to tend cattle, or to help in the fields. Still, if only there can be imparted a fair knowledge of writing, reading, and arithmetic, the result will be most beneficial to the sturdiest and hardest working part of the population.

Female Schools.

101. In my last Report it was noted that the Female education movement began in the year 1863-64. It has made considerable progress during the year 1864-65. There were, in the year 1863-64, 47 Girls' Schools with 804 pupils; while the Girls' Schools at the end of the year 1864-65 amounted to 65, and the total number of pupils to 1,294. In two of these Schools the attainments of the girls are very respectable, the upper classes being able to read, write from dictation, and cipher correctly. In some of the large towns of the Central Provinces, educated Native Ladies and Gentlemen have either founded Girls' Schools, or have exerted themselves to promote the success of Girls' Schools already founded. The girls at these Schools come from all professions and castes, but the larger proportion belong to the higher castes; which is, at this initiatory stage, a hopeful sign.

Indigenous Schools.

102. There were during the year 1864-65, 460 Schools established and supported by Natives of the country. These are either attached to temples and mosques, or else are kept by Masters who earn a living by the work. The total number of pupils at these Schools was 6,227 in the year 1864-65, against 4,875 in the previous year. All of these Schools are, more or less, inspected. But, out of the 460 Schools, 82 submitted to the formal inspection of Government Educational Officers; and of these latter again 32, as before stated, receive capitation grants. Some of the other inspected Schools received aid in the shape of School books, maps, &c.

Zemindaree Schools.

103. Seven Schools, attended by 263 pupils, were maintained on their estates by some of the Chutteesgurh Chiefs during the year.

Total results of Educational efforts during the year.

104. The total number of Schools and scholars during the years 1864-65 and 1863-64 may be thus compared:—

	Schools.	*Scholars.*
1863-64.	993	27,953
1864-65.	1,133	32,926

The advance thus exhibited may perhaps be deemed satisfactory. We have thus one School to every 90 square miles of area, and one pupil to every 250 souls of the whole population. Despite the progress attained, the amount of Education afforded is still immeasurably below the requirements of the country.

Erection of School-houses.

105. For the erection of School-houses Rs. 20,000 (£2,000) from the Government revenue, about Rs. 30,000 (£3,000) from Local or Municipal funds, and Rs. 39,421 (£3,942) from private subscriptions; or in all Rs. 89,421 (£8,942) have been expended during the year 1864-65. In several districts the work of building School-houses is now almost complete; and commodious School-houses have been built in most of the towns and larger villages. The large sums which the people have subscribed towards School-houses evince the interest they take in education.

Total Expenditure.

106. The total expenditure of the Educational Department during the year, inclusive of building charges, was—

	Imperial Funds. Rs.	*Local Funds and Subscriptions.* Rs.
On Direction, and its subsidiary charges.. ..	16,052	..
On Inspection, and do. ..	38,100	..
On Instruction, and do. ..	80,955	1,46,446
Total	Rs. 1,35,107	Rs. 1,46,446

The grand total of expenditure during the year was thus Rs. 2,81,553 (£28,155).

Educational Cess paid by landholders.

107. During the year 1864-65 advantage has, with the sanction of the Supreme Government, been taken of the revision of the Land Tax to raise the Educational Cess paid by land-owners from one to two per cent. on the Government demand. The funds disposable for augmenting and improving Village Schools will thus be doubled. In a draft Bill for the establishment of Municipal Committees, submitted during the year, power has been taken for the Chief Commissioner to devote a portion of Municipal funds to Educational purposes. Should this Bill become Law, the shop-keeping and artizan classes who profit by our Schools, equally with the agricultural classes, will pay their share of the cost of popular Education.

Proposal to devote a portion of Municipal funds to Educational purposes.

108. In para 174 of last year's Report it was mentioned that a Committee of the principal citizens was appointed to every Town School. These Committees have been at work during the year; therefore frequently taken much interest in the Schools under their charge, and have, on the whole, evinced a fair appreciation of their responsibilities. They have strengthened the hands of the Masters, and contributed considerably towards the success of the Town Schools.

Town School Committees.

109. The School fees realized in the year 1864-65 were Rs. 10,113 (£1,011), against Rs. 8,404 (£840) in the year 1863-64. These fees are devoted to increasing the salaries of the Master, or improving the premises of the School where they are received. In Schools where the fees are large, they are sometimes devoted to paying an Extra Assistant Master.

School Fees.

110. The Educational Department Book Depôts have continued to supply books. The number and value of the books sold was 54,999 and Rs. 13,861 (£1,386) in the year 1864-65, against 57,408 and Rs. 11,899 (£1,189) in the year 1863-64. The Educational Press continues to issue a monthly Vernacular *diglott* Newspaper.

Book Depôts.

111. The cabinets of the Central Museum at Nagpore are become rapidly filled; and a catalogue of all the specimens and articles is being prepared. The number of Natives who daily visit the Museum is considerable.

Museum at Nagpore.

112. The number of pupils in all our Schools who were studying English at the end of the year 1864-65, was 1,235. Out of these, 439 were at the two Zillah Schools of Saugor and Kamptee.

English language in Schools.

113. The regular Educational machinery of the Central Provinces has been introduced into Nimar during the year 1864-65. Attention had, however, been given to the cause of popular education by the Officers who governed Nimar before its transfer to the Central Provinces. Nimar now contains a Zillah School, six Town Schools, and thirteen Village Schools, with an aggregate attendance of 973 pupils.

Education in Nimar.

114. Though the Educational Officers are entitled to much credit for the progress which has been secured, yet a large portion of the result is due to the hearty co-operation which Civil Officers of all ranks, European and Native, have lent to the furtherance of Education. In my previous Reports it has been explained how the Civil Authorities have been taught to regard the promotion of Education as a part of their duties. This plan has had the happiest effect, not only in stimulating exertion throughout the country, but also in smoothing the apprehensions and dissipating the prejudices of an ignorant population.

General result.

CHAPTER IV.

PUBLIC WORKS.

115. In this, as in my previous Reports, the various classes of Public Works will be treated of in the following order :—

I.—Military Buildings.
II.—Civil Buildings.
III.—Communications, Roads and Bridges.
IV.—Railways.
V.—Canals and Irrigation.
VI.—Navigation Works.
VII.—Miscellaneous and Municipal Works.

SECTION I.—MILITARY BUILDINGS.

The projected Sanatarium at Mohtoor.

116. The temporary buildings at the Mohtoor Sanatarium, mentioned in my last Report, have had to undergo extensive repairs and alterations during the year. The proceedings, in respect to this place and the prospects of the Sanatarium, have been discussed in my previous Reports. The success of the project is doubtful. There is still hope that the place will offer great advantages in the hot season. But there is more fear than ever that it will not prove suitable during the rainy season and the autumn.

The Cantonment of Kamptee.

117. At Kamptee (Nagpore) the new quarters for married soldiers have been proceeded with, and are nearly complete. Many other buildings of a miscellaneous character have been constructed. On the whole, the condition of the military buildings at Kamptee, and the external improvement of the Cantonment generally, are highly satisfactory.

The Cantonments of Saugor and Jubbulpore.

118. At Saugor and at Jubbulpore little has been done, except to erect a few emergent structures and to improve the existing temporary buildings. The difficult questions connected with the permanent accommodation for European Troops at these two Stations had not been settled within the year. These are now, however, approaching settlement. When they shall be decided, it is probable that the construction of these buildings, according to the best designs, will be a prominent object in the administration during future years.

Section II.—Civil Buildings.

The construction of two new Civil Stations.

119. The erection of two new Civil Stations has been undertaken during the year, the sites and localities having been carefully selected. Of these, one is at Wurdah, in the midst of the cotton district in the Wurdah Valley; the other is at Khundwa, the new Head-quarters fixed for the district of Nimar. At both these new Stations, the buildings under construction include Court-houses, Jails, Police Lines, Circuit-houses, Churches. And progress is fast being made at both.

120. The progress made with Educational buildings and with Jail buildings has been described in the chapters relating to Education and to Prison discipline, respectively. The progress made in Church buildings will be mentioned in the chapter on Ecclesiastical affairs.

Section III.—Communications, Roads and Bridges.

121. The scheme of Roads for these Provinces has been fully described in my previous Reports. It will be borne it mind, that our efforts are mainly concentrated on those great lines designated respectively as—

I.—The Northern Road.
II.—The Southern Road.
III.—The Eastern Road.

I shall advert to each of these in order.

The Northern Road.

122. The Northern Road may now, as heretofore, be considered in two main parts; *first*, that from a point near Mirzapore to Jubbulpore; *second*, that from Jubbulpore to Nagpore.

The Section from Mirzapore to Jubbulpore.

123. In the first part, namely that between Mirzapore and Jubbulpore, the main work (as explained in previous Reports) consists in constructing bridges over the numerous unbridged streams. This work progresses slowly, but regularly, according to our means,—so many streams being spanned over every year.

The Section from Jubbulpore to Nagpore.

124. In the second part, from Jubbulpore to Nagpore, are comprised the most important road operations ever undertaken in this part of India. In the topographical descriptions given in my previous Reports, it will have been perceived that this road runs right athwart the Sautpoora Range of Mountains, which geographically form the backbone of the Peninsula of India. These hills here expand into a breadth of about 90 miles. Their top thus forms a great table-land, which again rises up into many intermediate ridges. The average height of the range where the road passes, is about 2,000 feet above the sea. Its ascent from the plains, either on the north or the south, comprises from 1,000 to 1,200 feet. Jubbulpore lies down in the Nerbudda basin, just above, or north of the Range. Nagpore lies in the champagne country below, or south of the Range. It has been of primary import-

ance to make this road, which connects the northern and southern Capitals of these Provinces; each of these places also being the Terminus of a Railway. It can be imagined then that a road line through such a country must be full of engineering difficulties. For now three years, the best part of the resources and energies of the Department of Public Works in these Provinces has been devoted to this work. And at last the great Road approaches completion. Leaving Jubbulpore, it is to cross the Nerbudda by a temporary trestle bridge. From there it is finished up to the foot of the Sautpoora Hills. Thence it is conducted up the northern face of the Range by the Silba Pass, chiefly by zigzags, at easy gradients, to a height of 400 feet from the bottom to the top of the incline. Then it traverses the elevated and rugged table-lands, meeting with ravines, rocks, and all sorts of undulations. In this part of its course, it crosses, by large masonry bridges, the rivers Shere and Bijna; streams which, rising in mountains close at hand, and carrying off the fast accumulating drainage of many valleys, become swollen, by a hour's rain, into torrents of extraordinary impetuosity. After crossing the river Bijna, it encounters a part of the heights which may be termed the dorsal ridge of the entire Range. Over these it is skilfully carried, by various inclines, through places horrid with desolation. Then it descends slightly to the banks of the Wyn Gunga River, 270 yards in width. It spans the Wyn Gunga by a beautiful bridge of 12 arches of 50 feet each. Leaving the Wyn Gunga, it again slightly ascends into table-lands, undulating and broken, but comparatively open, which it traverses till it nears the crests which form the southern face of the Range. Then begins the descent known as the Korai Pass; just here the inclines, which extend over some 500 feet from top to bottom, are still under construction. Meanwhile, there is a fair temporary road for the traffic. Hereabouts, not only the hill-sides above, but the plains below, are clothed with dense foliage; and from the top of the Pass there is one of the most extensive prospects of Forest scenery in all Central India. From the foot of the Pass, the road runs through a vast belt, 30 miles broad, of trees and brushwood, intersected by treacherous streams and tortuous ravines of every sort. The works here have been very troublesome, but they are virtually completed. Then the road, emerging from the jungles by a deep cutting, blasted through the rock, enters on the rich plains of Nagpore, and arrives at the Kunhan River at Kamptee. Here a bridge of twelve large arches has been commenced on deep sand foundations. But the work has been delayed by reason of the insecurity of several piers and the necessity of preparing a new design. The revised design is now, however, ready. Meanwhile, there is a temporary trestle bridge for the traffic. From Kamptee to Nagpore the road crosses a level country.

Difficulties and importance of the work.

123. I have thus dwelt for a moment on this Nagpore and Jubbulpore Road, because it is quite the most interesting of all the works in these Provinces. For the last three working seasons, it has employed

many of our best Engineers, and absorbed a large part of our Budget grants. About Rs. 30,00,000 (£300,000) have been spent upon it. Gangs of laborers, many thousands strong, have been collected from great distances, and been held together with constant care, in tracts always wild, and sometimes very insalubrious. The result has been, that about 160 miles of road have been finished, or nearly finished; that is bridged and metalled. There have been six bridges of magnitude undertaken, and no less than 52 bridges and culverts of various dimensions constructed. The metalling has not been invariably successful. In some places the trap-stone has proved liable to disintegration from exposure to the weather. Repairs and renewals will, however, make this right ultimately. Even now the road is not quite finished. Here there may be the flooring still to be carried over the arches of a bridge; there some metalling to be consolidated; and so on. But, on the whole, the line is so far finished that a mail cart could be run over it; and this was actually done in October last (1865).

The Southern Road.

126. The next line to be noticed is the Southern Road. As explained in my previous Reports, this is the road which runs southward from Nagpore through the cotton-growing tracts of the Wurdah Valley. In my last Report it was stated that 166 miles of this road were under operations. In this Report the statement of results is as follows:—

	Miles.
Road completed	108
Do. bridged and passable	28½
Do. surveyed and marked out..	44
Do. surveyed, but not commenced	18½
Total Miles, ..	199

In general terms, it may be said that the road from Nagpore southwards to Chanda, which is the head of the Godavery country, is tolerably finished; that is, for the most part, bridged and metalled. Progress has been made, too, with the branch roads round the cotton mart at Hinghunghât. The only source of disappointment in this quarter, is the softening and deterioration of the trap-stone metalling in many places.

The Eastern Road.

127. The third line to be noticed is the Eastern Road. As explained in my previous Reports this is the road which runs from Nagpore eastwards towards Chutteesgurh. In my last Report it was stated that the first 75 miles were under operations. Of these, 52½ miles are now reported as finished, and the rest as being far advanced.

The projected Road from Saugor to the Railway.

128. When the state of progress in the roads above noticed shall afford leisure, and release a portion of our financial grants, now so much pre-occupied, the first line to claim attention will be that from Saugor to the nearest point of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway,

some 65 miles. In my last Report it was mentioned that this line had been surveyed. During the season under report plans and estimates have been furnished. It is hoped that an actual commencement will be made as soon as funds shall be available.

129. The road works under the various Local Committees are of a detailed and miscellaneous character; and though the aggregate is large, yet it is difficult to select for mention any particular work of magnitude. On the whole, their operations have extended over a broad area; and it will be seen that their expenditure has been considerable, exceeding, indeed, that of any previous years.

Total expenditure on Roads.

130. The expenditure on roads, exclusive of all establishments, during the year, amounts to Rs. 14,50,000 (£145,000) in the Public Works Department, and by the Local Committees to Rs. 2,50,000 (£25,000); in all Rs. 17,00,000 (£170,000).

Section IV.—Railways.

Three Lines of Railway.

131. It will be remembered that, as stated in my previous Reports, there are three lines of Railway in these Provinces; 1*st*, the line from Bombay to Jubbulpore; 2*nd*, the branch to Nagpore; 3*rd*, the line from Jubbulpore to Allahabad. The two first belong to the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company, the third to the East Indian Railway Company.

132. The halting progress of the two first lines, belonging to the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company, has been a source of constant anxiety throughout the year under Report. The Home Directors of the Company have, during the year, appointed Captain Sherard Osborn, R. N., to be chief Agent, and under him there has been a marked change for the better, in all respects.

The Railway from Bombay to Jubbulpore.

133. The main line from Bombay to Jubbulpore runs for 303 miles within the bounds of these Provinces. It is now opened from Bombay to Boorhanpore, our frontier town. Thence to Jubbulpore, it is far from complete. Much work has indeed been done over most sections of the line; and the peculiar difficulties which occur where the Line passes through the wild and unhealthy valleys of the Sautpoora Hills below Asseergurh, have been met and well nigh overcome with a noble resolution and perseverence. But the great viaducts over the rivers Nerbudda, Shere, Sukkur, Towa, and Chota Towa, are hardly so forward as might have been hoped. In some cases, there have been difficulties hardly to have been foreseen; in others, there have been delays (on the part of the Contractors) hardly to be excused. Great efforts are now being made; but the date when any one of these important works may be finished, cannot safely be predicted. At present I can only say that the line *ought* to be finished by the

beginning of 1867; that it *may* be finished by the middle of 1867; and that it *will* be finished by the beginning of 1868, at the latest, if not before.

Site of Permanent Station at Jubbulpore.

134. In my last Report it was stated that the questions relating to the selection of a suitable site for the station, which is to be the joint terminus for the two Railways meeting at Jubbulpore, were still pending. These have, after a five years' discussion, been settled; and a site has been occupied which, while it sufficiently meets the requirements of the two Railway Companies and of the general traffic, will yet be close to the Military Station, and be convenient for effectual protection, in case of need arising, at any period of danger or emergency.

The Railway to Nagpore.

135. The branch Railway to Nagpore is now finished to the Wurdah River, the frontier of these Provinces in that quarter. The distance thence to Nagpore is only 65 miles, and this last remaining section will be finished by the middle of 1866. It is expected that the first Train may run through from Bombay to Nagpore some time in September 1866. During the year under Report, while the Line itself was completed in all its essentials, yet the slow progress in putting down the Rails (Platelaying) was altogether excessive. For some months past there has been great improvement, and the work is now going on fairly well.

The Railway from Allahabad to Jubbulpore.

136. The Line from Allahabad to Jubbulpore is going on so smoothly, regularly, and well, that I need not say that it will probably be finished by the prescribed time, viz., the beginning of 1867. It is much to be wished that the Railway from Bombay could be finished by the same time, so that the communication from Calcutta, through to Bombay, might be complete. But it is to be feared, for the reasons just stated, that the portion belonging to the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company, cannot be finished for some months afterwards.

Section V.—Canals and Irrigation.

Projects proposed.

137. In my previous Reports I have fully adverted to the larger projects, for the storage of water in extensive reservoirs for the supply of the channel of the Godavery; and the lesser projects, for the extension of artificial irrigation in the Nagpore country.

138. In regard to the greater projects, it was explained in my previous Reports that the valleys of the rivers Kunhan and Pench had been examined. This examination has since been carried on in the valley of the Wyn Gunga. Of the lesser projects three have been advanced towards maturity within this year: one for irrigating the country round Seonee in the Sautpoora Plateau; one in the country at the southern base of the Sautpoora Hills; and one in the tracts

immediately to the north-west of Nagpore. But the schemes have not yet advanced beyond the stage of projection.

Section VI.—Navigation Works.

Plans and Estimates.

139. The *final* plans and estimates* of the Godavery Navigation Works at the 2nd Barrier were submitted to the Government of India on the 4th of July 1864, and those† for the 1st Barrier on the 20th of May 1865. Both have been accepted and sanctioned by the Supreme Government, in their Resolution No. 930-3C, dated the 13th of September last.

General progress of the Works.

Progress of Works at the first Barrier.

140. During the year under review, only the works at the first Barrier have been proceeded with. The works which were carried on during the year at the first Barrier were (1) the Anicut, (2) the Sluice-wall, (3) the Head-lock, (4) the two sections of Canal and Flood embankment, and (5) the uppermost of the Tail-locks. The percentage proportion of work executed on each of the above items up to May 1865, is given below :—

1.	Anicut or principal Dam	44⅓ per cent.
2.	Sluice-wall	64⅓ „
3.	Head-lock	23½ „
4.	Canal and Flood embankment	27 „
5.	Upper Tail-lock	23 „

Present state of the Works.

141. The state of the works at this Barrier at the present time (November 1865) may be thus described.

Anicut, or principal Dam.—Four-fifths of the entire length of the Anicut, commencing from the left bank, are finished, inclusive of the scouring sluices in the centre of the dam.

The east wing-wall is also completed, and the flood embankment from it to the sluice-wall has been made up.

Sluice-wall.—The sluice-wall of 14 vents across the channel, about a mile lower down than the Anicut, is nearly completed.

Head-lock.—The masonry foundations are built to an average height of 3 feet.

Canal.—Of the canal, only 10 or 12 per cent. of the work has been done in the upper section. On the lower section, however, out of the 12½ miles of its length, not more than 1½ mile remains to be done.

Flood embankment.—The flood embankments near Doomagoodium are made up, and the station is now well protected. The culverts here are also completed, and the drains are cut.

The flood embankment along the 2nd section of canal is also very nearly finished. None of the culverts in the latter portion have been constructed as yet.

High-level Tail-lock.

The uppermost of the Tail-locks is far advanced.

* Rs. 11,34,139.
† Rs. 16,34,194.

142. In April of 1865, cholera broke out at Buddrachellum amongst the pilgrims who resorted to the annual Fair in great numbers. It soon attacked the work-people, and destroyed fully 800 of them. Many hundreds then ran away panic-stricken, leaving dead and dying along the different routes taken in their flight. For more than a month the works were suspended, and the work-people were dispersed into camps. When the scattered forces were again collected, only 2,500 out of 6,000 could be mustered. Several gangs of work-people who were on the way up were met by the deserters, and fled back with them, thus effectually putting a stop to further recruiting that season. In other respects, the healthiness of the past season was very fair. The admissions into hospital of fever cases during the second-half of the year, when fever is most ripe, amounted to 10 per cent. of the strength of the working force. The deaths from fever were less than one per cent. of the admissions.

Progress impeded by sickness.

143. The road from the foot of the 3rd Barrier to Chanda, being an integral part of the present scheme of works, has been surveyed and laid out during the year.

Road from 3rd Barrier to Chanda.

144. The small Flotilla fleet of steamers and boats has been exceedingly useful in the past year also, in the transport of food for the work-people, and Engineer's stores and materials. In the transport operations there was a marked improvement over the results of the preceding year, both in the quantity carried and in the cost of transport. Upwards of 13,000 tons were carried during the year (inclusive of land carriage by the tramway), which is more than double the quantity transported in the year 1863-64, and at an *average* cost of $2\frac{1}{2}$ annas per ton, being a reduction of 30 per cent., compared with the cost in the preceding year.

Flotilla and Transport.

Section VII.—Miscellaneous and Municipal Works.

145. The works under this category consist of public improvements carried out by the various Local Committees. Some of the principal may be briefly noticed. The various Municipal improvements on and about Nagpore have been specified in my previous Reports. It will suffice now to say that all their numerous works have been prosecuted vigorously during the year. The roads, the streets, the square, the cotton market, the Dispensary, and the School-house at the new town of Hingunghât have been completed. The improvements to the market place and the new public garden at Kamptee are nearly completed. The garden contains a sheet of water, which not only embellishes the city, but also supplies water to its most populous bazars. The new streets of Jubbulpore, constructed on a uniform and handsome design, have been com-

pleted. The drainage works at Raepore are much advanced, the effect being to convert swamps into salubrious and ornamental tanks. Progress has been made with the new streets and squares of that city. The public gardens close to the city of Saugor, have been completed. A dam thrown across the river near Hurdah has ensured a supply of good water to that town. Bhundara has been raised from the status of a village to that of a town by the opening out of broad streets. It would be tedious to enumerate the works of the same character executed in the various towns in the interior of the country. The works indeed are so numerous and scattered, that it would be impossible to describe them without entering unduly into detail. But there is scarcely a town in the Provinces which cannot show some useful work or building which has been executed during the years 1864 and 1865. Between ninety and a hundred towns of various sizes have been brought under operations. At all these places Municipal Committees of the principal townspeople have been formed. The Municipal Act framed originally for Oudh has been extended to these Provinces, and has been especially applied to the towns of Nagpore, Kamptee, and Jubbulpore.

SECTION VIII.—TOTAL OF PUBLIC WORKS.

146. This chapter may conclude with the following abstract of Expenditure of all kinds on Public Works during the past two years :—

		Military Works.	Civil Works.	Roads.	Navigation Works.	Tools and Plant.	Establishment.	Profit and Loss.	Advances for Stock.	Total Expenditure.	Local Works.	Grand Total Expenditure.
1863-64.	From the year's Budget Grant.	Rs. 2,73,701	1,25,578	8,29,333	5,58,000	..	4,73,229	..	70,000	23,29,841	5,10,146	28,39,987
		£. 27,370	12,558	82,933	55,800	..	47,323	..	7,000	232,984	51,015	283,999
	From the one per cent. Income Tax Grant.	Rs. ..	7,500	1,67,500	..	..	..	..	..	1,75,000	..	1,75,000
		£. ..	750	16,750	..	..	..	..	..	17,500	..	17,500
	Total ...	Rs. 2,73,701	1,33,078	9,96,833	5,58,000	..	4,73,229	..	70,000	25,04,841	5,10,146	30,14,987
		£. 27,370	13,308	99,683	55,800	..	47,323	..	7,000	250,484	51,015	301,499
1864-65.	From the year's Budget Grant.	Rs. 2,76,424	2,82,658	10,33,804	4,08,207	90,608	5,08,000	733	68,697	26,68,631	6,46,528	33,15,159
		£. 27,642	28,266	103,380	40,821	9,061	50,800	73	6,870	266,863	* 64,653	331,516

CHAPTER V.

POST OFFICE.

147. There has been no change in the arrangement mentioned in my last Report for the conveyance of the Mails by the Imperial Post Office Establishments. The Trunk Road between Jubbulpore and Nagpore was nearly ready for the Mail cart by the end of the year 1864-65.

Imperial Postal Lines unchanged.

148. The Imperial Post Office Department in these Provinces continues under the separate administration of Postmasters General of the different Presidencies and the North-Western Provinces. The supervision and control so exercised must be weak. I have, accordingly, submitted a proposal to the Supreme Government for placing postal arrangements in these Provinces under a separate Postmaster General; and showed that the saving that would be feasible, after a thorough revision of the establishments, would more than meet the expense.

Scheme for a Postmaster-General for the Central Provinces.

149. I stated in my last Report that measures had been taken for the establishment of a District Post Office at each Police station, and at the Civil Headquarters of each district, for the delivery of letters in the interior of districts. During the year under review, these arrangements have been revised and perfected at a cost of Rs. 40,674 (£4,067) per annum. The expenditure will be covered, partly by the District Post Cess, which at 8 annas per cent. on the Land Revenue assessment will amount to from Rs. 27,000 to Rs. 28,000 (£2,800), and partly by the income derived from bearing and stamped letters amounting to from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 12,000 (£1,200) per annum. The *internal* Postal system is managed at present by the Civil Authorities. By these means there have been during the very first quarter some 30,000 private, and 33,000 service letters delivered. The total length of these interior Postal lines is about 3,200 miles. The above result is quite irrespectively of the Imperial Postal Returns, which are rendered separately.

Postal Lines in the interior of Districts.

CHAPTER VI.

ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH.

150. The Government Electric Telegragh Lines in these Provinces have been described in my former Reports. No new Line has been erected during the year 1864-65. The renewal of the posts of the Telegraph Line between Mirzapore and Nagpore has been prosecuted during the year; new iron standards have been fixed over a distance of 135 miles. About 70 miles still remain for renewal. Similar operations are in progress from the Line between Nagpore and Sironcha on the Godavery.

CHAPTER VII.

FINANCIAL.

151. The prescribed form of Financial Statement will be found appended to this Report; the Statement is prepared by the Deputy Accountant General. As explained last year, his Returns differ slightly from the Revenue Returns given in former pages of this Report. In the Financial Returns, all monies, whether paid on account of the year's demand, or in anticipation of the following year's demand, are credited as income of the year. Whereas, in the Revenue Returns, only collections falling due, or overdue within the year, are entered. I will advert briefly to those headings which call for remark.

Aggregate receipts of the year 1864-65.

152. The total receipts for the year are set down at Rs. 93,80,710 (£938,071). In the year 1863-64 the amount stood at Rs. 85,29,478 (£852,947). The receipts of the year 1864-65 thus exceed those of the year 1863-64 by Rs. 8,50,000 (£85,000). But of this increase, about Rs. 2,75,000 (£27,500) are the revenues of Nimar, which was incorporated with the Central Provinces at the beginning of the year 1864-65.

153. Headings I. to XVI. of Receipts, having been noticed fully in the chapters on Revenue, require no further remark here.

154. The receipts under heading XIX.—"Post Office and Electric Telegraph"—have increased from Rs. 1,03,362 (£10,336) to Rs. 1,15,361 (£11,536).

Local Fund Receipts.

155. Under heading XVII.—"Public Debt"—the only item requiring remark is No. 5, "Local Funds." The receipts for the year 1864-65 under this head amount to Rs. 13,78,512 (£137,851); for the preceding year they amounted to Rs. 10,09,860 (£100,986). The receipts under this head include, as mentioned in my last Report, collections on account of the two per cent. Road Cess, of the two per cent. School Cess, of the special Government property (Nuzzool), and of City Octroi duty. The increase in the receipts of the year 1864-65, over the receipts for the year 1863-64, are due to the enhancement of both the Road and School Cesses, from one per cent. to two per cent. on the Land revenue; and also to the gradual extention of the system of raising, in selected cities and towns, either by House Tax or by Octroi duty, funds for purposes of Municipal improvement.

Expenditure of the year 1864-65.

156. The total disbursements in the Statement amount to Rs. 55,93,421 (£559,342), but this does not include charges on account of "(C) Army," "(GVIII.) Public Works." The operations of the year coming under this last heading have been noticed in Chapter V. of this Report.

Civil Charges.

157. Deducting the charge under the heading "Pension and Political Allowances," Rs. 11,31,253 (£113,125), the regular charges of the Civil Administration amount to Rs. 44,62,168 (£446,217). This is an increase over last year's charges; part of which increase is due to the incorporation of the Nimar District; part to increased Police charges, which again are caused by the rise in the price of provisions, and consequent extra pay granted to Constables in districts where the price of wheat rises above a certain fixed rate; part to the extended Customs Establishments, which have yielded so large an increase of revenue; part to things of a temporary character, such as the charge for the prosecution of the land revenue settlement and for demarcating waste lands.

Abolition of Pre-audit.

158. During the year, the "Pre-audit" has been abolished, and the whole duties of Audit and Account are performed in one Office. For the last ten months, the new, or Post-audit system, has worked satisfactorily. It has caused a considerable saving in Audit Establishments, and has obviated many delays.

Bank of Bengal Branch.

159. The Branch Agency of the Bank of Bengal established at Nagpore, has continued satisfactorily to perform the Government Treasury duties which have been entrusted to it. Its operations in the Bill market are becoming larger and larger; and the influence which the Agency has on the local money-market is good, so far as it goes.

Circulation of Currency Notes of Nagpore Circle.

160. In my last Report I stated that a Circle of Paper Currency had been formed for these Provinces. During the year 1864-65, Currency Notes have been very largely brought into circulation by the commercial classes of the Central Provinces. At the end of the year 1864-65, the issues aggregated Rs. 24,50,000 (£245,000). At the time I am now writing, the Notes issued (without reckoning re-issues) amount to Rs. 54,00,000 (£540,000). A considerable number of these Notes have been used as first-class Bills, have been remitted to Calcutta, and cashed at the Head Currency Office there. 31,00,000 (£310,000) worth of Notes of the Nagpore Circle, which had been cashed at the Calcutta Office, have since been cancelled, and the Currency Department has placed an equivalent amount of silver at the disposal of the Deputy Auditor General at Nagpore. During the year Rs. 5,50,000 (£55,000) out of the Nagpore Currency balances have been invested in Government Securities. These investments yield at four per cent, the lowest rate paid on Government loans, Rs. 22,000 (£2,200) a year. This sum may be

Profits of Currency Department.

taken as the actual profits of the year. The gain which accrued to the Public Treasury from the utilization at Nagpore of 31 lakhs of Currency balances, may be reckoned at about Rs. 23,250 (£2,325); for the average discount at which, on Calcutta, Bills are sold by the Deputy Auditor General, is 12 annas, or ¾ per cent. But this item of profit should more properly be reckoned as Currency Department earnings of the year 1865-66. It may be said, however, that the Currency Department at Nagpore has already earned, on the whole, about half a lakh of rupees (£5,000). The total cost of the Department during the year amounted to Rs. 11,500 (£1,150).

Advantages of the circulation.

161. It cannot exactly be stated in figures how far the mercantile classes have really brought these Currency Notes into general circulation. But it is very generally stated, by all Merchants, that the Paper Currency of Nagpore has been a really great convenience to traders in all parts of the Central Provinces. The whole of the Currency Department issues was not made to Merchants across the counter at Nagpore. Notes to the value of Rs. 6,59,570 (£65,957) were sent to District Treasuries and Sub-treasuries, according to local requirements; and in this way, Rs. 3,42,240 (£34,224) of Notes had floated into circulation, and became useful at most of the chief marts of the Central Provinces before the end of the year. It has always been expected that a considerable number of Nagpore Notes would return to Nagpore and be presented for cashment when the Nagpore cotton crop of the year 1865-66 should ripen. The crop is now beginning to ripen, and the remains of last year's crop is now being disposed of. Accordingly, the Nagpore Currency Counter is a most accurate index of the rise and fall in the price of cotton. When a telegram comes in that cotton has gone up, thousands of Notes are presented for cashment; when cotton goes down, Notes are held back, and none are sent to Nagpore from Calcutta or Bombay. On the whole, I think that the Currency Department has (though the result is not really so successful as might at first sight appear) rapidly and completely found a field for itself in the Central Provinces.

Copper Coin.

162. The attention of the Deputy Auditor General is still directed, as mentioned in my last Report, to quickening the circulation of copper coin. Copper coin amounting to Rs. 1,50,000 (£15,000) has floated into circulation during the year; and in the course of time, the circulation of Cowrees (small sea-shells) will hold but an insignificant place in tracts where, three years ago, it was almost the only medium known to the people.

Cost of Military Forces in the Central Provinces.

163. The Garrison of the Central Provinces is of about the same strength as it was last year. Its cost is shown, in the Returns received from the Military Pay Department, to be Rs. 54,12,906 (£541,290). This amount is considerably above the cost of the Central Provinces' Military establishment, as shown in my last Report. The increase is in part only apparent; and is due to the Military Pay Department

having this year debited to each Regiment or Battery a share of the cost of all Army Head-quarter establishments, whether staff, medical, or financial. Much of the increase may, perhaps, be due to the increased compensation paid to Native Soldiers on account of the dearness of provisions. The question, as to whether the finance of these Provinces is fairly debitable with the whole of this military expenditure, has been fully discussed in my previous Reports.

Public Works Expenditure.

164. The Department of Public Works expenditure, inclusive of the cost of the Godavery Navigation Works, amounts to Rs. 2600,000 (£2,60,000). This does not include expenditure from Local and Municipal Funds.

Aggregate expenditure of all kinds.

165. Thus the total Imperial expenditure within the Central Provinces for the year 1864-65, may be stated in round numbers as follows :—

	Lakhs of Rupees.	£.
As per Deputy Auditor General's Statement	56	560,000
On account of the Army . ..	54	540,000
On account of the Public Works Department	26	260,000
Total	136	1,360,000

CHAPTER VIII.

ECCLESIASTICAL.

166. The requirements of these Provinces, in respect to Church buildings, have been explained in my previous Reports. The new Church at Nagpore (previously opened for Divine Service) has been added to during the year. The Church at Raepore has been opened for Divine Service. The Churches at Bhundara and Nimar are well advanced; those at Chindwara and Hoshungabad are under construction. An old building has been fitted up for a Church at Baitool. Out of twenty Stations, Churches have now been provided for nine.

The building of Churches.

167. I have only to repeat what was stated in my last Report, as to the great want of spiritual aid in most parts of these Provinces, and the paucity of Clergymen. These disadvantages still exist.

Paucity of Chaplains.

168. Special attention has been given to the repair and maintenance of the Cemeteries in decent order.

Cemeteries.

CHAPTER IX.

POLITICAL.

Feudatories.

169. In my last Report I stated that an enquiry had been made regarding the past history and present status of the semi-independent Chiefs and petty Chieftains who occupy some of the outlying parts of these Provinces. It has now been decided that, out of the 115 Chieftains, 14 only are entitled to rank as Feudatories, and that the remainder are ordinary British subjects. These Feudatories will govern their own territories; neither they nor their subjects will be amenable to the laws which apply to British India; but they will be under the political control of the Chief Commissioner. They will also enjoy the right of adopting heirs, in conformity with the customs of their race.

170. In my last Report I stated that Soorunder Sah, a pretender to the sovereignty of Sumbulpore, had, with some of his chief adherents, been arrested and tried for treason. They were acquitted of specific treason, on appeal. Still, the circumstances of Sumbulpore during the last eight years rendered it necessary that they should, for the security of the British Dominions in that quarter, be kept in confinement. They are, accordingly, kept as political prisoners, under Regulation 3 of 1818, in the Fortress of Asseergurh, at a distance of 600 miles from the scene of their misdeeds. During the year 1864-65, the district of Sumbulpore has continued to be undisturbed by crimes of violence. During the year 1863, thirty-one robberies, with murder or violence, committed mainly from political animosity, occurred in the district of Sumbulpore, while not one such crime occurred in the year 1864. All the Chiefs of robber-bands, some of them outlaws of the year 1857, have now been hunted down, apprehended, tried, convicted, and transported.

Sumbulpore District.

171. The only other matter which merits notice in this chapter, is the rectification of the boundary of Nimar. Certain negotiations with the Maharajah Holkar are now pending, which will result in transferring to His Highness two of the northern Sub-divisions of Nimar.

Nimar boundary.

CHAPTER X.

MILITARY.

172. The strength of the Military Forces in these Provinces remains nearly the same as at the period of my last Report, or about 9,500 men of all ranks.

173. With the transfer of the district of Nimar to this administration, the Fortress of Asseergurh, with its Garrison, consisting of a European and a Native Detachment, was added to the number of our Military stations. The great importance of this stronghold, which commands the Great Indian Peninsular Railway and dominates the road between the Deccan and Malwa, was described in my last Report.

174. During the year 1864-65, the Legislature passed a Law, known as the Cantonment Act, which provides for the better administration of Cantonments. This Act empowers the Local Government to make bye-laws on the subject of Municipal improvements and of Sanitary reform. This Act has, at my recommendation, been extended to the three chief Cantonments of the Central Provinces; *viz.*, Kamptee, Saugor, and Jubbulpore. Bye-laws have been framed under its provisions. The Act provides also for establishment of Lock Hospitals in Cantonments, and for the subsidiary arrangements necessary to the success of such Institutions. A Lock Hospital had existed for some time in Kamptee, and advantage has been taken of the Cantonment Act to place the Institution on a sound and legal footing. Arrangements have also been made for opening Lock Hospitals at Saugor and Jubbulpore, the other stations where European Troops are cantoned.

175. The Nagpore Volunteers have increased in strength during the year; they are now about eighty strong. Their attention to drill during the year has been praiseworthy, and they are, on the whole, fairly efficient.

CHAPTER XI.

MISCELLANEOUS.

SECTION I.—AGRICULTURE AND COTTON.

176. The position of the Agri-Horticultural Society, with its Head-quarters at Nagpore, has been fully set forth in my previous Reports. At the beginning of the year the Society numbered 58 members, since then it has increased to 133 members, of whom 26 are Natives. Including the Grant-in-aid from Government of Rs. 1,200 per annum, its total income from all sources amounted to Rs. 9,190 during the year under review.

177. The Society continues to receive and distribute seeds of every description, as well as plants of all kinds, among the different districts of these Provinces. It is worthy of special remark, that the vegetable seeds distributed among the market gardeners in the neighbourhood of Nagpore itself, have vastly increased the quantity and quality of the vegetables now offered for sale in the bazars.

178. The stock of trees and shrubs in the Society's Gardens is stated at—

Fruit trees	6,675
Forest trees..	25,085
Flowering shrubs	31,760

Attention is given to the culture of arrow-root, potatoes, Otaheite sugar-cane, Russian flax, and many other valuable products.

COTTON.

179. The season 1864-65, in respect of this staple product, was probably one of the most auspicious ever known in the Central Provinces. Everywhere, the breadth sown with cotton was greater than in previous years; as compared with the year 1861-62, the increase was almost 100 per cent. Prices continued high, with a tendency to increase, and everything contributed to stimulate the cultivation. The following abstract will show how this cultivation has been progressing during

the four years for which statistics have been obtained :—

	Area sown with Cotton, in Acres.			
	1861-62.	1862-63.	1863-64.	1864-65.
In the Nerbudda Valley north of Sautpoora Range	116,964	163,991	195,253	285,111
In the Nagpore Country south of the Range	227,370	221,932	238,752	330,155
In the Chutteesgurh Country, the Mahanuddy and Godavery Valleys	36,289	41,188	54,431	74,332
Total Acres, ..	380,623	427,111	488,436	689,598

180. During the year Dr. Forbes, the Cotton Commissioner for Bombay, visited these parts, and travelled over with me the best cotton-growing tracts in the Wurdah Valley. His opinion of the superiority of the Hinghunghât cotton is entitled to much weight, and his advice, as to the best manner of picking and packing the staple for export, has been freely and widely communicated to the people.

181. Accepting, however, Dr. Forbes' estimate of from 50 to 60lbs. of ginned cotton, as above stated,—*i. e.*, at 60lbs. per acre for the Wurdah Valley, 45lbs. for the Nerbudda Valley, and 40lbs. for the Chutteesgurh Country,—the total yield for the year would amount to 35,612,575lbs., or (at 300lbs. the average weight per Indian bale accepted in England) 118,709 bales. Now the registered export trade in cotton for the year, after deducting the through traffic in that article, amounted to 27,213,504lbs., or about four-fifths of the total produce calculated as above stated.

182. Experiments are being conducted in the Wurdah Valley, under the supervision of Dr. Cullen, specially selected for the work, in the introduction of American cotton. Similar experiments were conducted here before, as will be seen by reference to my previous Reports, but they ended, more or less, in disappointment; owing, as Dr. Forbes pointed out, to defective instructions. Dr. Forbes' experience of 16 years in cotton cultivation, enabled him to give more certain advice in all matters of detail connected with these experiments. Accordingly, eight fields have been selected in different parts of the Wurdah Valley, and sown with acclimatized New Orleans seed, supplied from the Dharwar cotton farms; and, judging by the latest reports received from Dr. Cullen, several of these are progressing well, and promise a good outturn. Then machinery has been imported for ginning, after the methods adopted in the Dharwar factories. Lever Presses are on their way from Dharwar for pressing cotton into bales for transport by Railway. A Lever Press and one Screw Press have been actually set up, and are in working order. These will be set up at Hinghunghât and other

important cotton marts. The attention of the people is being continually attracted to all these experiments, and there is hope of some ultimate success.

Section II.—Arboriculture.

183. In my last Report I described the system proposed for arboriculture in these Provinces, and the Rules framed in furtherance thereof. For the giving effect to this plan, especially as concerning the main roads, the Supreme Government sanctioned a contribution of Rs. 10,000 (£1,000) per annum, for the planting of trees on the roadside. To this a similar sum has been added from Local Funds, so that the total expenditure during the year now under Report has amounted to Rs. 20,420 (£2,042).

Funds available for planting trees on main roads.

184. Care has been given first to the establishment of nurseries, and then to the planting out of young trees in avenues and in groves on the roadsides. The number of miles of avenue now under care might be approximately stated as follows :—

Results attained during the year.

	Miles.
By Department of Public Works	250
By Civil Authorities	130
Total ..	380

The number of nurseries and plantations may be similarly stated thus :—

By Department Public Works	25
By Civil Authorities.	18
Total ..	43

The approximate number of young trees planted out was stated, in my last Report, at 200,000. It is difficult to give the statistics of such a matter; but the above number must, by this time, have been greatly exceeded.

185. In order to induce the proprietors of the land along the highways to contract for the maintenance of the avenues and groves within their holdings, a remuneration, at the rate of Rs. 50 (£5) per mile per annum, has been offered to all those who would undertake this. In some districts the terms have been accepted.

Attempts to enlist landholders in the cause of arboriculture.

SECTION III.—WASTE LANDS.

Demarcation of Government Wastes.

186. In my previous Reports I have described the general character and the great extent of the waste lands of these Provinces. And I stated that the waste lands, which belong to Government, and are available for sale under the Waste Land Sale Rules, were being formally separated from private properties and permanently marked off. The process of marking off Government wastes has been prosecuted vigorously during the year. Two and a half million of acres, or about 4,000 square miles of Government waste, have already been marked off. In some districts, however, the Government wastes have still to be marked off.

Area of Government Wastes.

187. The whole area of Government wastes in these Provinces will not fall short of 15,000 square miles: out of this area, about 3,500 square miles have, or will soon be reserved from sale, either because they yield natural products,—such as timber, limestone, coal, &c., which it is desirable to retain for the present as Government property,—or because their situation close to large marts, or on high roads, makes them too valuable to be sold at the price intended for average waste lands. The 12,000 square miles available for sale, contain lands of many kinds. They comprise,—sometimes upland plateaus of the Sautpoora and Vindhya Ranges, fit for the cultivation of tea, coffee, the potato, the cinchona; sometimes alluvial plains in the valleys of the river Nerbudda, the Godavery, the Mahanuddy, the Wyn Gunga, and Taptee; sometimes fertile slopes and well-watered glades, wherein these great rivers take their rise amid those main ranges which stretch athwart the Indian Peninsula.

Their varied features.

Preparation of Register.

188. The great capabilities of these lands have been previously described in general terms. They are now being carefully surveyed, and mapped, and registered. The registers will show details, descriptive of the altitude of each plot, its climate, its average rainfall, its water supply, its soil, its geological and other natural features, its proximity to marts and high roads, and the natural products it now yields. As the register for each district is ready, it will be published for general information. One such register, describing the waste lands of the Wurdah District, was recently published as a Supplement to the Local Gazette.

European Settlers.

189. In my last Report I adverted to the beginning made by three European Settlers in different parts of the Central Provinces. These three settlements continue to make progress. During the year 1864-65 the Roman Catholic Mission at Nagpore, purchased a plot of waste land near Nagpore. Several members of the Mission, both European and Native, now reside on this plot, and they have already brought some of the land under cultivation.

Section IV.—Mineral Resources.

Existing Coal fields.

190. During the year the negotiations for working the Coal mines at Burkoee in the Chindwara District, and at Shahpoor in the Baitool District, have been advanced a stage. Should these two mines eventually prove workable, they will be connected by Tramways with the Nagpore branch of the Great Indian Peninsular Railway.

191. The Mohpanee Coal mines in the Nursingpore District are being worked with success by the Nerbudda Coal and Iron Company. It is proposed to connect these mines with the Railway by a short Tramway, to be constructed by the Company.

Fresh Discoveries.

192. Discoveries have recently been made of extensive coal fields, distant some 12 miles from the Burkoee field, in the district of Chindwara. Specimens from two different parts of these coal fields have been analysed; and the analysis would seem to show the newly discovered coal to possess many of the properties of the English coals. Another coal field has also been recently discovered in the Chanda District, in the bed of the river Wurdah. The quality of this coal has not yet been ascertained.

Iron Works.

193. The Supreme Government, after considering a Report which I submitted on the Iron Works at Burwai, on the Nerbudda, in Nimar, decided that the works, plant, buildings, stock of charcoal, &c., should be advertized for sale, at an upset price of Rs. 45,000 (£4,500).

Section V.—Survey.

Professional Revenue Survey.

194. In Chapter II, on Land Revenue, the progress of the Professional Revenue Survey was mentioned. Three survey parties have been at work during the year, and they surveyed over 3,500 square miles. A fourth party entered the Central Provinces late in the open season, and broke ground in the lower valley of the Wurdah.

Topographical Survey.

195. A party of the Topographical Survey has been at work in the Central Provinces for some time, and a map of a part of the Sumbulpore District, the first map founded on its survey, was completed during the year. A second Topographical Survey party entered the Central Provinces, and broke ground in the Upper Godavery District during the year. These two parties will, in the course of a few years, survey and delineate the whole country between the Godavery and the valley of the Soane near Mirzapore, comprising some of the least known and the wildest tracts in India.

Geological Survey.

196. The Geological Survey of the Nerbudda Valley has been mentioned in my previous Report. A party of the Geological Survey of India is now about to enter

these Provinces, and commence on the southern slopes of the Sautpoora Hills.

197. Inasmuch as surveys and topographical information have been among the desiderata of these Provinces, it may be well to note the results which, in this respect, have been accomplished of late years. The statement may be given as follows :—

	Square Miles Surveyed.
By Professional Revenue Survey	26,000
By Topographical Survey	11,000
Total ..	37,000

Results hitherto attained by these surveys.

198. It may, therefore, be said that all the cultivated parts of these Provinces, excepting only some of the open country of Chutteesgurh, have been surveyed and delineated in the most complete manner. There remain only the Sautpoora Hills and the wild valleys at their feet, the wild tracts of Northern and Eastern Chutteesgurh, and the valleys of the Mahanuddy and the Godavery. The survey of these tracts, and of the few portions of open country which have yet to be surveyed, is being rapidly pressed on; and through the six Survey parties, who are surveying and mapping from eight to nine thousand square miles a year, the survey of the Central Provinces will, before long, be an accomplished fact. In this matter, the administration of these Provinces is much indebted to the cordial co-operation of Colonel H. L. Thuillier, the Surveyor General of India.

Section VI.—Fairs.

199. The importance of the Fairs in this tract of India has been explained in my previous Reports.

Amount of Merchandize sold at the Fairs.

200. There were 67 Fairs of more or less consequence held during the year in different parts of these Provinces. From statistics taken on the spot, it is estimated that the aggregate value of property of all kinds brought to these fairs was Rs. 75,63,765 (about three-quarters of a million sterling), of which Rs. 52,12,310 worth (above half a million sterling) were sold. These sales comprised European piece-goods and other European articles, to the value of Rs. 12,96,325 (£129,632); country manufactured articles worth Rs. 15,29,420 (£152,942); horses, mostly small ponies, Rs. 31,933 (£3,193); other cattle and Sheep Rs. 9,61,734 (£96,173); other miscellaneous articles Rs. 13,92,898 (£139,290).

Number of persons attending Fairs.

201. The number of persons attending these fairs, coming from all parts of India, is estimated at 1,443,290. At some fairs, there are very large gatherings.

Cholera.

202. In my last Report I mentioned that some of these fairs held in spring and summer months were annually visited by cholera, and that it was a question whether fairs at that particular season should not be discouraged. This question still engages attention.

Section VII.—Trade Statistics.

Improvement in collection of Trade Statistics.

203. In my previous Reports I described the elaborate plan adopted for registering Trade Statistics in these Provinces and the routes taken by the traffic. The system of registration has been much improved during the year under review, and these very important Returns are becoming more and more accurate.

204. The external trade of the Central Provinces is given thus in the Return :—

Imports 68,751 tons, valued at Rs. 3,18,55,535 (£3,185,553); Exports 77,771 tons, valued at Rs. 2,37,99,264 (£2,379,926); or the total exterior trade, including imports and exports, 146,522 tons, valued at Rs. 5,56,54,799 (£5,565,480);—the principal articles of traffic being as follows :—

	Imports.		Exports.	
	Maunds.	Rs.	Maunds.	Rs.
Cotton	42,983	9,16,948	374,855	94,91,170
Sugar	166,181	19,92,930	52,120	5,85,047
Salt	764,398	41,24,262	67,839	3,64,863
Grain	157,492	4,76,859	939,538	21,51,327
Oil-seeds	31,691	1,05,581	15,729	48,003
Metals and Hardware ..	282,770	1,15,61,359	53,598	22,67,283
English Piece-goods	58,496	56,86,495	8,382	12,41,511
Miscellaneous European goods	19,316	14,00,748	3,752	1,10,474
Country cloth	11,499	6,32,642	54,277	44,19,699
Silk and Silk Cocoons ..	1,205	8,57,034	620	1,68,389
Horses, Cattle, and Sheep ..	...	6,49,104	...	3,84,655
Cocoanuts	45,590	4,31,834	11,498	1,19,288

These imports and exports may again be divisable into,—(1) trade with Northern India generally, 66,579 tons, valued at Rs. 1,88,53,485 (£1,885,349); (2) trade with Bombay, Berar, and Western India generally, 54,127 tons, valued at Rs. 3,41,83,754 (£3,418,375); (3) trade with the Southern Madras country, and Hyderabad (Deccan) 1,843 tons, valued at Rs. 3,19,359 (£31,936); and (4) trade with Eastern Coast

Districts, Cuttack, and South-Western Frontier States of Bengal 23,973 tons, valued at Rs. 22,98,201 (£229,820). Altogether there has been some increase in the trade, in both imports and exports, compared with last year, due partly to the inclusion in the Returns of the trade of the Nimar District for the first time this year, and partly to real increase.

205. No attempt has been made to register bullion imports into these territories. As the Returns stand, the imports exceed the exports by about a million sterling; thus seeming *primâ facie* to show that a large unliquidated demand was pressing against these Provinces at the close of the year, or that bullion to that extent had been exported; whereas, it is well known that this country imports bullion to a large extent in return for its exports in kind. To reconcile the Returns then with the real facts of the year, it will be necessary to exclude the imports of Railway material which has been registered at Nimar to the extent of 11,877 tons, valued at £1,179,228; this would make the exports in excess of the imports by £373,601; leaving so much of bullion to be imported to balance the trade.

Section VIII.—Hospitals and Dispensaries.

Number of Dispensaries and Branch Dispensaries.

206. In my last Report I said there then were 18 Dispensaries and 12 Branch Dispensaries at work in all these Provinces. During the year under review, five Branch Dispensaries have been added to the number,—making 17 Branch Dispensaries. The total then stands thus:—

Dispensaries	18
Branch Dispensaries	17
TOTAL ..	35

Other Branch Dispensaries being opened.

207. The inhabitants of the large towns generally have shown a desire to subscribe liberally towards the establishment of these branch Institutions; and wherever the prescribed quota of private support has been subscribed, whether towards the erection of the necessary building, or the maintenance of the medical establishments, a corresponding amount of aid from the State has been assured to the people. On this understanding there were, before the year closed, other Branch Dispensaries beside those abovementioned, either being built, or about being commenced; so that we may hope, during the current and next few years, to see these useful Institutions largely multiplied.

Number of cases treated during the year.

208. During the year 81,934 patients were treated, or, excluding Nimar, which district did not appear in last year's Returns, 78,080 patients; being an increase of 33 per cent. over the number treated in 1863, and 85 per cent over the number treated in 1862. In other words, the

number of persons applying for treatment at our Dispensaries had almost doubled in two years. There were also 92 Capital and 2,301 Minor operations performed during the year.

Total cost of Dispensaries during the year.

209. The total cost of these Institutions during 1864 amounted to Rs. 41,958 (£4,196). When the year closed, the various Committees had Rs. 22,901 in hand, of which Rs. 9,354 were invested at interest. Of the total receipts during the year—Rs. 63,919—Rs. 29,508, or 46 per cent., were granted by Government; Rs. 2,728 were voted by the Municipal Committees from Local Funds; Rs. 789 accrued from interest on invested capital; and Rs. 10,963 were raised by private subscriptions,—58 per cent. being contributed by Natives. The income from private subscriptions showed an increase of 35 per cent. on last year.

Vaccine Operations.

210. In my last Report I stated that a scheme of vaccination, or what is known as the Kumaon system, was about being introduced. Accordingly, in December 1864, systematic operations commenced at Nagpore under the Superintendent, Dr. Brake. A good beginning was made. The number vaccinated up to 30th April last being 5,085, of which 3,351 cases were successful, 1,161 failed, and 573 result unknown.

Lunatic Asylum.

211. During the year, the Lunatic Asylum mentioned in my last Report was opened at Nagpore; and 32 Lunatics, who had heretofore been confined in the several Jails, were called in and admitted for treatment at this Institution. Additional accommodation has been added to the Asylum for the reception of female patients. A similar Institution is being opened at Jubbulpore.

Leper Asylum at Nagpore.

212. A Leper Asylum has also been opened at Nagpore during the year: it affords accommodation for 20 Lepers.

Section IX.—Public Health and Sanitary Improvement.

Registration of Deaths.

213. During the year 1864-65, a registration of deaths, and the causes of deaths, was begun in some of the chief towns and in a few limited agricultural tracts of the Central Provinces. Since the end of the year, the registering Agency has improved; and there seems hope that fairly reliable vital statistics of our urban population will be procured.

Cholera.

214. During the year 1864-65, epidemic cholera visited every district of the Central Provinces, in a more or less severe form. Some districts were visited twice during the 12 months. The course of the epidemic was closely watched in several districts; in Saugor and Chanda, the diagrams showing the direction in which the disease travelled were particularly clear, but no practical inferences were usually deducible from the observations recorded.

215. The course of the malady in the districts which lie below the northern and southern slopes of the Sautpoora Hills was traceable to a particular source. Cholera in these districts broke out in February. It appeared first on certain lines of road, whereby pilgrims returned to their homes in the Deccan, or in Malwa, after visiting the shrine of Mahadeo on the Puchmurree Hills. The epidemic had broken out among pilgrims at this Fair; and in every town or village on the Puchmurree Hills where cholera appeared, it was ascertained that the first victims had been returning pilgrims. In the interest, therefore, of the public safety, the holding of this Fair in future years at the spring season, when cholera usually appears, has been prohibited.

Its appearance among Pilgrims.

216. Attention was also directed during the year to the mortality among travellers on the Eastern Road, running from Nagpore to Sumbulpore and Orissa. It was also observed that, in certain parts of Chutteesgurh, low fever of a dangerous type was very prevalent. It appeared that neither on the Eastern Road, nor at inland villages, was there a supply of good drinking water during the hot season. Along 120 miles of road, from Raepore to Sumbulpore, there were only two wells; and the only drinking water at the great majority of villages was that drawn from tanks which collected surface drainage in the rainy season. This tank water was supposed to be unwholesome. It was thought that, if inducements could be held to residents to sink wells for drinking purposes, some of the sickness peculiar to Chutteesgurh might gradually disappear. Accordingly, wells have been, or are being, dug at all halting places along the roads. Grants of land have been offered free of revenue for thirty years, to persons who sink wells for drinking purposes.

Mortality in Chutteesgurh.

217. In order to give professional support to the efforts which have for some time been made for the conservancy of towns all over these Provinces, the Medical Officer of each district has been appointed the *ex-officio* Sanitary Officer of the Local and Municipal Committees. He makes the conservancy and sanitation of the chief town of the district his special care, and he advises the Civil Authorities on all sanitary points which may arise in outlying towns. Sanitary Sub-Committees are also appointed by all the principal Local Committees. A set of brief practical sanitary suggestions has also been furnished to the principal landholders, which will by degrees be brought into practice.

Sanitation in Towns and Villages.

218. It is worthy of remark that, although cholera was so general, yet the number of deaths was not so great as might have been apprehended, and the proportion of persons attacked, to the total population in towns which the epidemic visited, was not large. It may be that the cholera of 1865 was not of a virulent type; but the comparative lightness of the visitation may, perhaps, be partly attributable to improved sanitary arrangements and precautions at the chief centres of population.

Effects of Sanitation.

Section X.—Improvement in the breed of horned Cattle, Horses, and Sheep.

219. In my last Report I stated what measures were in progress for the improvement of the breed of horned cattle in these Provinces.

Bulls for breeding.

220. Some 19 bulls have been obtained from the Hissar Government Farm. In 1863, some 12 bulls from Nellore in the Madras Presidency were imported into the Saugor District. During the year under report another batch of 24 young bulls from the same place has arrived. These latter were selected by Mr. Dyke, the Collector, who describes them as "a fine lot, and one of the very best breed we have got." They cost Rs. 5,070 (£507), besides the expense of bringing up here.

Indigenous breed of Cattle.

221. Cattle breeding is carried on all over the Provinces. The breed in the hills on the southern face of the Sautpoora Range, near Chindwara, is perhaps the most beautiful of any of our indigenous breeds, and is in high esteem for light and speedy draught. But the breed along the valley of the Wurdah, corresponding with that in Berar, is much prized for bone and endurance. These two breeds, for the most part, supply the Nagpore bullocks, so well known for their speed.

Sheep breeding, how encouraged.

222. Sheep breeding is also carried on in most districts. Prizes have been offered, and competed for, at several of the annual Fairs for the best flock of sheep exhibited, and encouragement of this nature will be continued to be given to breeders. A model sheep farm, moreover, has been established at Dumoh by the municipality, where crossing with foreign breeds has attained to some success. A similar farm is about to be established in the Nagpore District.

Government Stallions.

223. A good commencement has been made during the year, in the purchase of stallions for improving the breed of horses. Of the 10 stallions sanctioned for these Provinces, 9 have been purchased at a cost of Rs. 8,480 (£848), and distributed among the various districts.

Elephant catching.

224. The Khedda, or Elephant catching operations in the hills bordering our extreme North-Eastern Frontier in Chutteesgurh commenced only in March 1865. Some success has been attained, and a few Elephants have already been taken.

Section XI.—Forests.

225. The general character of the Forests in these Provinces,—their vast extent and importance—the chief sorts of timber which they contain—have been described in my previous Reports. This Report will treat only of their management and conservation.

226. In my last Report it was mentioned that a set of Forest Rules had been drawn up. This Forest Code, having received the sanction of the Supreme Government, has been published in the *Gazette of India*. The rules now possess the force of Law under the Indian Forest Act.

Code of Forest Laws.

227. I will now briefly describe the changed organization of the Forest Department; and will advert to the chief measures of Forest conservancy which had been undertaken during the year.

Change in organization of Forest Department.

228. The Forests are either,—1, private property declared, on enquiry, to belong to individuals; or 2, Government property declared, on enquiry, to belong to the State.

Two kinds of Forest Lands.

229. All Government Forests have been divided into two classes, *viz.* "Reserved" and "Unreserved." Reserved Forests are selected tracts which, either from their productive powers, or from the superior quality of their timber, or from their proximity to centres of trade, or from other natural advantages, will best repay careful and thorough conservation.

Two classes of Government Forests.

230. There are in all 29 "Reserves" in various parts of the country, and their aggregate area amounts to 2,880 square miles. All other Government Forests, and all Government wastes bearing firewood, or yielding any Forest products, are classed as "Unreserved" Forests.

"Reserved" Government Forests.

231. The area of the "Unreserved" Forests cannot be stated. It may be approximately set down at about 11,000 square miles.

"Unreserved" Government Forests.

232. Similarly, the precise area of the timber-bearing tracts belonging to private individuals cannot yet be stated. But it can hardly be less than 10,000 square miles. Also, on the lands of the Feudatories described in Chapter IX. of this Report, there are extensive timber-bearing tracts.

Private Forests.

233. As described in paragraphs 344 and 345 of my last Report, the "Reserves" are under the exclusive control of the Officers of the Forest Department, and are being gradually brought under all the processes of the professional forestry. The enforcement of Conservancy Laws in Unreserved Forests is entrusted to the Civil Authorities, the main object being to prevent the wasteful felling of any timber, and the felling at all of a few superior kinds of timber, except under special authority; and to realize a sufficient Forest revenue without pressing unduly upon the consumers of Forest produce. These objects are now being gradually attained. To aid the Civil Authorities in this work, *trained* Subordinates (generally Natives) are supplied by the Forest Department. Among other results,

Conservancy in "Reserved" and "Unreserved" Forests.

that portion of the Forest dues which is collected by the Civil Authorities, rose 150 per cent. during the first season of the new system.

Administrative Divisions.

234. All the Government Forest tracts in these Provinces are under the supervision of an Officer, styled the Conservator of Forests. These tracts have further been parcelled into six main Divisions; and to the charge of each Division an Assistant Conservator has been appointed. Each Assistant Conservator has full Executive charge of all "Reserved" Forests in his Division. There also devolves on him the duty of inspecting all Unreserved Forests in his Division; of advising the Civil Authorities on matters of Forest detail; of granting and watching the operation of all licenses to fell timber on a large scale; and of conducting or directing all thinning operations.

Advantages of the new system.

235. The most noticeable feature in the system, is the placing of the *Un*reserved Government Forests under the ordinary Civil Authorities, and not directly under the Forest Department. By these means, three particular objects are attained. *First*, the power and influence of the Civil Authorities, who are on the spot, is brought to bear on these scattered Forests, which, from their extent, would be practically beyond the control of any single Department. *Second*, as the Civil Authorities best understand the wants of the people, these Forest tracts, from which the mass of the population chiefly draw their supplies, will be administered in a manner consistent with the requirements of the public; and thus all chance of misunderstanding between the State and its subjects, and of complaint or discontent arising, is obviated. *Third*, the Departmental and Professional assistance of the Forest Officers is not lost. For though the Forest Officers in *these* particular Forests are not the Executives, still they are the Inspectors and advisers;—their inspection serves as a check on the Civil Authorities, and their advice ensures the work being done in a skilful and intelligent manner.

Summary of operations.

236. The operations of the Forest Department during the year may be thus summarized. All the "Reserves," except two, have been examined and reported on, and their boundaries have been decided; 13 "Reserves" have been marked off from the surrounding wastes by permanent land-marks; timber trees for next year's felling have been marked. Arrangements for registering the growth of all our chief kinds of timber have been completed. Rs. 1,15,521 worth of dead Teak and Sâl wood, either lying cut or standing where it died, has been brought out of the Forests; 6,645 logs and 76,024 sleepers have been supplied to the several Railways; Rs. 10,200 worth of timber have been supplied to the Public Works Department. The thinning of young Teak Forests has begun, and many thousands of Teak saplings have been sold to meet local requirements. A regular system of leasing the usufruct of miscellaneous produce in "Unreserved" Forests has been introduced.

Financial Result.

237. The financial result of Forest operations during the year 1864-65 may be thus shown:—

CREDITOR.		DEBTOR.	
	Rs.		Rs.
Income of the year ..	89,306	Stock in hand at beginning of year	56,581
Stock in hand at end of year	80,433	Outstanding debts due to Forest Department at the beginning of the year	15,536
Outstanding realizable debts due to Forest Department at the end of the year	1,08,016	Expenditure of Forest Department during the year	97,556
		Balance in favor of Forest Department ..	1,08,082
TOTAL, ..	2,77,755	TOTAL, ..	2,77,755
	£27,775		£27,775

Thus, reckoning stock in hand and realizable outstandings, the operations of the year show a surplus of Rs. 1,08,082 (£10,808) after the repayment of its current charges, amounting to Rs. 97,556 (£9,755). Several large deliveries of timber to Railway Companies and Contractors took place towards the end of the year, and thus it occurred that more than Rs. 1,00,000 (£10,000) of one year's revenue were outstanding at the end of the year.

Forest Revenues.

238. The expansion of the State Income from Forests may be estimated from the following Return:—

		Rs.	£
Forest Income of	1860-61	45,812	4,581
	1861-62	64,302	6,430
	1862-63	53,169	5,317
	1863-64	77,539	7,754
	1864-65	89,306	8,930
Forest Income of (regular Estimate* by Accountant General) ..	1865-66	1,91,000	19,100
Forest Income of (Estimate by Conservator)	1866-67	1,99,327	19,933

* These Estimates are fully reliable; that for 1865-66 is based upon the Actuals of five months, and there is very good reason for accepting the Conservator's Estimate for 1866-67.

239. Considering, indeed, how large a portion of these Provinces is covered with trees and brushwood, and how light is the land revenue in the inhabited tracts, I anticipate such an increase in future years to our Forest income, as shall render it a considerable item in the general revenues.

CHAPTER XII.

CONCLUSION.

240. It remains for me to acknowledge the assistance specially rendered by individual Officers to this Administration during the year.

241. The Judicial Commissioner, Mr. J. S. Campbell, has made persistent and, as I hope, successful efforts to enforce a strict and intelligent observance of the Laws and Rules on the part of all the Courts to secure the work being thoroughly done, as well as efficiently despatched; and to maintain a good professional standard among the Civil Officers generally. He has also officiated as Chief Commissioner during my six months' absence.

242. My best acknowledgments are due to Mr. C. Bernard, the Secretary, for the aid he has rendered in all Civil Departments, and for the zeal and ability which he has brought to bear on his work. I have also to record my strong sense of the services rendered by Mr. J. H. Rivett-Carnac and Mr. F. Wyllie, who served as Assistant Secretaries during the year.

243. Mr. J. H. Morris, as Settlement Commissioner, by his effective and judicious superintendence of his very important Department, has rendered valuable service both to Government and to the people. Among the Divisional Commissioners, Mr. R. E. Egerton and Captain H. Mackenzie have done much to render the Administration in all branches effective and popular within the extensive circles of country entrusted to their superintendence.

244. Among the Deputy Commissioners, the merits of Captain W. Nembhard and Mr. A. C. Lyall are attested by their having been selected to act in the capacity of Commissioners. Of the other Deputy Commissioners, Mr. W. M. Low has done quite the best, and has held successfully a difficult charge. After him, I consider the following Deputy Commissioners to have done particularly well :—

Lieut.-Colonel J. N. H. Maclean.	Captain H. F. Newmarch.
Captain F. A. Fenton.	Mr. J. W. Chisholm.

The following Deputy Commissioners have also done well :—

Major J. B. Dennys.	Captain C. L. R. Glasfurd.
Captain C. B. L. Smith.	Captain C. Baldwin.
Captain A. B. Cumberlege.	

245. Among the Assistant Commissioners, I have specially to mention :—

Captain J. Loch.	Lieutenant J. W. Macdougall.
Lieutenant M. M. Bowie.	Lieutenant J. A. Temple.
Lieutenant H. J. Lugard.	Lieutenant A. Bloomfield.

246. Major F. L. Magniac and Mr. F. Macnaghten have continued to efficiently perform the duties of their respective Courts of Small Causes. Captain E. M. Playfair has despatched satisfactorily the work pertaining to the Cantonment Magistracy of the very large station of Kamptee.

247. Of the Settlement Officers, Mr. C. A. Elliott and Mr. C. Grant have done remarkably well. The manner in which they took up the threads of long pending settlements, and brought the operations to a close satisfactorily to all concerned, merits the highest commendations.

The following Settlement Officers have also proved highly efficient :—

Mr. W. Ramsay.	Mr. J. Hewitt.
Captain W. B. Thomson.	Mr. A. M. Russell.
Mr. J. H. Rivett-Carnac.	Mr. H. Read.
Mr. A. J. Lawrence.	

248. Among the Extra-Assistants, the following have been very useful:

Mr. W. Munton.	Mr. R. Hamilton.
Mr. W. A. Nedham.	Sheo Pershad.

249. Of the Tehseeldars, or Sub-Collectors, the following have done the best:—

Enayet Hoosein (Hinghunghât), Bhaskur Rao (Nagpore), Dinkur Rao (Bhundara), Kesho Sheoram (Kampta), Nehal Chund (Gururwarra).

250. Of the Officers engaged in ministerial duties, the services of Mr. G. Barclay, Superintendent of the Office of the Secretary to Chief Commissioner, have been most useful. Commendation is also due to Mr. J. S. Hannagan and Mr. W. A. Russell, the Head Clerks of the Offices of the Commissioners in the Jubbulpore and Nerbudda Divisions. Mr. T. Drysdale, Superintendent of the Judicial Commissioner's Office has been specially commended. This Officer has also acted efficiently as Judge of the Small Cause Court at Nagpore.

251. In the Police Department, the Inspector General, Colonel H. D. Taylor, has rendered great service to these Provinces, by bringing all his Subordinates into proper relation with the Magistrates, and by striving to render the Force efficient for all public purposes and acceptable to the people.

Of the Officers subordinate to him, the following are selected for special commendation :—

Captain F. G. Steuart.	Captain T. A. Scott.
Captain C. S. B. Walton.	Lieutenant W. Vertue.
Captain S. S. Sutherland.	Lieutenant H. A. Hammond.
Mr. J. M. Berrill.	Devee Pershad.
Mr. M. P. Hanken.	

Inspectors.

Mr. A. Collis.	Sheik Mahomed Booden.
Mr. A. Wrixon.	

To this list, I would add the name of Captain W. F. Ireland, who died of epidemic disease, contracted while in the zealous excution of his duty.

252. The Inspector of Prisons and Dispensaries, Doctor R. T. Abbott, has supervised these Departments in a highly satisfactory manner.

253. In the Educational Department, Mr. C. A. R. Browning acted as Dirctor with marked zeal and aptitude; Lieutenant G. H. Trevor has been highly successful as Inspector of the Northern Circle. Among the Masters of Schools, Mr. J. J. Fraser and Mr. J. Elliott are deserving of praise.

254. In the Account Department, Mr. W. Biss, the Deputy Auditor and Accountant General, has conducted the business very efficiently, and promoted many useful reforms.

255. In the Public Works Department, the Office of Chief Engineer and Secretary to the Chief Commissioner was held by Colonel C. H. Dickens, with high professional efficiency, and with the best practical effect on the progress of the works in hand. Colonel W. Maxwell has succeeded Colonel Dickens; and though joining his post late in the year, has already been the means of doing much good.

Major J. Stoddard, as Superintending Engineer of the Godavery Works, has rendered excellent service. Acknowledgments are due to Mr. A. G. Crommelin, Assistant Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, and Superintendent of Works.

256. Among the Executive Engineers, I would select the following for special mention for the good progress of their works :—

Mr. J. H. Heyman.	Lieutenant Roberts.
Mr. Isaac.	Lieutenant Montgomerie.
Mr. J. O. Donnell.	Mr. deGronsilliers.
Lieutenant Marryatt.	

Among the Assistant Engineers, there are four Officers who really have done more than ordinarily well, and evinced high promise of future usefulness :—

Mr. J. H. Wilson.	Mr. H. Bell.
Mr. F. L. O'Callaghan.	Mr. F. Johnson.

Among the Assistants, I must also mention Mr. J. Whiting, who, as a practical Executive, is not surpassed by any Officer in the Department.

257. I cannot conclude this mention of the Officers of the Public Works Department without noting that Captain Haig has been compelled by ill health temporarily to relinquish the charge of the Godavery Works. While in charge he showed high professional qualifications, and a remarkable devotion to the interests of the projects entrusted to his care.

258. In the Railway Department, Lieut.-Colonel Drummond, Bengal Engineers, and Lieutenant G. W. Oldham, Bombay Engineers, have rendered much assistance to this Administration in all matters connected with that Department.

259. In the Forest Department, Lieutenant J. Forsyth has very efficiently performed the duties of Conservator during the year. Under him Lieutenant J. C. Doveton and Mr. W. Jacob have earned special distinction for their operations in the Forests.

260 The Administration in these Provinces is under great obligations to the Commissioner of Customs, Mr. W. E. Money, and to Mr. F. W. Vere, Deputy Commissioner, for their excellent supervision.

261. Among the Officers engaged in laying down the new Lines, under urgent and trying circumstances, Mr. T. A. Martin and Mr. H. Ives have shown praiseworthy zeal.

262. In the Professional Survey, Colonel Saxton, Captain A. D. Vanrenan, Lieutenant J. Sconce, Lieutenant J. W. Taylor, Mr. J. Mulheran, have ably executed a large amount of useful work.

263. Among the Medical Officers, the following Officers have distinguished themselves by professional zeal and usefulness:—

Doctor W. W. Heude.	Doctor J. Brake.
Doctor S. C. Townsend.	Doctor W. R. Grylls.
Doctor W. R. Rice.	Mr. G. Law.
Doctor J. Law.	Mr. W. Thomas.
Doctor P. Cullen.	

264. At the conclusion of my last Report it was said that our Officers had, as a body, worked hard, though they had still much to learn, and that the foundation of improvement had been laid. Another year has passed, and our Officers have worked quite as hard as, perhaps even harder than ever. I trust that they are learning more and more of their multifarious duties; and that gradually some sort of superstructure of progress and reform is being raised up.

NAGPORE:
The 30th November 1865.

R. TEMPLE.

		Rupees.	Rupees.
	CASH BALANCE		36,56,255
Revenue.	1.—Land Revenue ..	58,83,275	
	2.—Forests	63,619	
	3.—Abkarree	9,30,[illegible]8	
sed Taxes	1.—Income Tax ..	2,85,432	
oms	Imports	89,305	
.. ..	Customs Duty, &c. ..	14,30,586	
n	..		
ps	..	4,96,815	
.. ..	..		
Office ..	*Vide* XIX ..	..	
ric Telegraph			
and Justice		1,48,520	
.. ..		26,837	
e		..	
c Works		..	
tes and Contributions on account of			
ontingent from Native States		792	
llaneous		24,791	
			93,80,910
REST :—			
On Imperial Loans		..	
On Local Loans (over-payments recovered)		..	
On Advances to Service Funds		..	
On other Accounts		..	
IC DEBT :—			
Public Loans, Imperial		..	
Local Loans		..	
Local Taxes		..	
Service Funds (Police Superannuation Fund)		36,941	
Local Funds		13,78,512	
Deposits		15,84,545	
Sale of Waste Lands		15,092	
Miscellaneous (Advances repayable, &c.)		3,55,029	
Railway Traffic Account		..	
Local Remittances—			
Cash received		48,51,754	
Bills drawn		11,18,261	
Public Works Department		1,39,459	
			94,79,593
USTED RECEIPTS :—			
On account of other Governments ..		..	
On account of other Provinces		..	
ittances from other Governments ..		..	57,27,404
GENERAL GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.			
tal Department		1,04,516	
ctric Telegraph Department ..		10,845	
			1,15,361
GRAND TOTAL Rs.			2,83,59,528

		Rup
A.—	Allowances, Refunds and Drawback ..	1
B.—	CHARGES AGAINST INCOME :—	
	I.—REVENUE DEPARTMENTS—	
	1.—Land Revenue, Forest and Abkaree ..	14,6
	2.—Assessed Taxes	
	3.—Customs	
	4.—Salt	2,4
	5.—Opium	
	6.—Stamps	2
	7.—Mint	
	8.—Post Office	
	9.—Electric Telegraph	
	TOTAL ..	17,2
	II.—Allowances and Assignments under Treaties and Engagements	10,0
	III.—Allowances to District and Village Officers	9
	IV.—Miscellaneous	3
	V.—Contingencies, special and temporary ..	
	TOTAL ..	11,3
	TOTAL ..	28,5
C.—	Army	
D.—	Navy	
E.—	Works of Internal improvememt and Public convenience	
F.—	CIVIL SERVICES :—	
	I.—Civil Buildings	
	II.—Salaries and Expenses of Public Departments	2,8
	III.—Law and Justice	7,9
	IV.—Police	11,4
	V.—Education, Science, and Art ..	1,4
	VI.—Political Agencies and other Foreign Services	
	VII.—Superannuation and Retired Allowances and Gratuities for charitable purposes	2,7
	VIII.—Marine	
	IX.—Miscellaneous	7
	X.—Civil Contingencies, special and temporary	
	TOTAL ..	27,2
	TOTAL A. to F. ..	
G.—	INTEREST :—	
	I.—On Imperial Loans	
	II.—On Local Loans	
	III.—On Service Funds	
	IV.—On other Accounts	
H.—	PUBLIC DEBT :—	
	I.—Imperial Loans under liquidation and transfer	
	II.—Local Loans under liquidation ..	
	III.—Service Funds	
	IV.—Local Funds	13,7
	V.—Deposits	17,9
	VI.—Miscellaneous (Advances repayable, &c.)	3,5
	VII.—Railway Traffic Account	
	VIII.—Local Remittances—	
	Cash remitted	48,0
	Bills paid	11,4
	Public Works Department ..	21,5
I.—	ADJUSTED CHARGES :—	
	I.—On account of other Governments	
	II.—On account of Provinces	
J.—	Remittances to other Governments ..	
	GENERAL GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.	
	Postal Department	1,6
	Electric Telegraph Department	4
	Total Rs. ..	
	Cash Balance „ ..	
	GRAND TOTAL Rs. ..	

REPORT

ON THE

ADMINISTRATION

OF THE

CENTRAL PROVINCES

FOR THE YEAR 1865-66.

BY

R. TEMPLE, ESQUIRE, B. C. S.

NAGPORE:

PRINTED AT THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE PRESS.

1866.

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REPORT

ON THE

CENTRAL PROVINCES' ADMINISTRATION,

1865-66.

INTRODUCTION.

The fifth Report of the Administration of the Central Provinces is now submitted, comprising mainly the proceedings of the year 1865-66. In the introduction to the last Report there was recapitulated all that had been done up to the middle of 1865; and the condition of the country and the people during that year was briefly described. This introductory chapter will, therefore, present only a short review of the condition of affairs in 1866.

The seasons, as affecting the autumn harvest of 1865 and the spring harvest of 1866, though not actually unfavourable, were yet far from being propitious: the summer rains were copious and violent; but the winter showers, so necessary to sustain the vigor of vegetation, fell partially and scantily. In many places, consequently, the crops of wheat, oilseeds, and pulses were stunted or withered. On the other hand, the yield of rice, of millet, of sugarcane, and of cotton, sufficed to reward the husbandman. Last year there was a deficiency in some districts of the rice crop, and in others of the wheat. Thus there has not been a bumper harvest all round for more than two years.

In Chutteesgurh, that is in the eastern districts, especially where cereals are the chief staples, the rice crop partially failed last year, though the wheat had an average productiveness. This year the rice crop has been fairly abundant, but the wheat has been poor. Half the harvest having been deficient for two years running, Chutteesgurh, though still a great producing and exporting country, has hardly

proved itself this year to be, what it once was, the granary of these Provinces. Those convoys of grain which, as described in former Reports, used to flow like a tide from Chutteesgurh westwards to Nagpore have this year been ebbing fast. Of late, scarcely half the usual quantity of cereal produce has been received at the Nagpore markets from the eastern districts. Consequently, Nagpore has drawn large supplies of grain, some twelve thousand five hundred tons, from the districts to the north, and especially from the direction of Jubbulpore. This has caused a drain on the resources of the upper valley of the Nerbudda,—a tract which, heretofore exporting solely towards Bundlecund or Hindostan, has for the first time begun to export southwards to Nagpore. The fact of Nagpore being so largely supplied with food from Jubbulpore instead of from Chutteesgurh, has constituted, for the present at least, a notable change in the interior trade of these Provinces.

While production has been rather below the average, exportation of the articles of food (though in the aggregate not increased, perhaps even slightly decreased) has been yet briskly maintained in several directions. Chutteesgurh, withholding much of its accustomed exportation to the west, has yet exported largely towards Mirzapore by reason of the demand in Behar and that quarter, and towards Cuttack by reason of distress in Orissa. Again, the western districts of these Provinces, if they have not sent as much grain as usual to Malwa, have despatched much more than ever towards Berar and Candeish. Indeed, the fast increasing interchange of commodities between these Provinces and Berar form a prominent feature in the trade of the year. During the last season indeed, Berar received some two thousand three hundred tons of corn from these Provinces, and sent thither some three thousand tons of millet.

These circumstances have tended to the enhancement of the prevailing dearness of provisions, and to the extending of such dearness to places which had until lately been comparatively cheap. Nagpore, dear in prices before, has become dearer still; Jubbulpore, formerly much cheaper, has become as dear as Nagpore. In most parts of these Provinces, wheat and rice, which last year ranged from twelve to sixteen seers for the rupee, can now only be purchased at eight or ten seers for the rupee. A few years ago, eight seers for the rupee would have been considered

a famine price. In some places, such as the Wurdah Valley, the price has been as dear as a rupee for five and six seers. But the greatest change has occurred in Chutteesgurh. There within the last two years the prices have risen from a rupee for thirty seers, to a rupee for twenty seers; and now to a rupee for fourteen seers. This condition contrasts surprisingly with the time, not more than five years ago, when for one rupee there could have been purchased from fifty to eighty seers, and sometimes even ninety or one hundred seers. Thus cheapness seems, as it were, to have been banished from its last retreat.

The yield of Mhowa and other wild fruit has been generally deficient, and in some places has almost failed. These constitute articles of food with the hill tribes and with several of the poorer classes; and any failure must aggravate the pressure of the demand for the more regular sorts of provisions.

The culture of the sugarcane has been generally successful, though not universally so. This plant depends, of course, on irrigation. Where the cane gardens lay under the lee of the dams of the deep-water lakes, filled by the floods of the moonsoon, the produce was fine. Where they lay near shallow tanks, dried up by the absence of the latter rains, the plants withered away over acres and acres of ground. The price of molasses has all the time ranged very high. And those husbandmen who were blessed with rich crops have made considerable sums of money, which they are reputed to have buried in the earth for safety.

The cotton crop was generally fair. The breadth of area under cultivation, though still great, was, as might have been expected, somewhat less than in the preceding year. The returns, however, show no decrease, but on the contrary even some increase of exportation towards Bombay, the amount standing at one hundred and thirty three thousand bales for 1865-66. The Officers responsible for the registering are confident of the correctness of the return; but the result is not easily to be accounted for. There is just the doubt that the increase in the return is due to improved registration. But this much seems certain, that the export of cotton has remained steady during the year. The price of cotton, which once rose to twelve annas (1*s.* 6*d.*) per lb. at Nagpore, and to eleven annas and three pie (1*s.* 5*d.*) per lb. at Hingunghat, the chief

mart, averaged during the year four annas and three pie (6¼*d.*) per lb. at the former place, and four annas and six pie (6¾*d.*) per lb. at the latter. The fluctuations and troubles of the trade at the great centres, have not materially affected the fortunes of the local traders, or of the producers. The experiments in introducing the superior varieties of the staple have been prosecuted with some success during the year. But they have not yet produced any appreciable effect on the culture generally. So also the efforts to teach the natives to prepare, press, and pack the cotton have been persevered in; but it is not likely that the people will really exert themselves to this end, till the opening of the Railway (expected to occur next year) shall bring home to their minds the expediency or necessity of despatching their cotton in a proper state. The Hingunghat staple seems to preserve its reputation for length and strength of fibre; so much so, that the desire on the part of dealers to mix other sorts with it seems to be on the ascendant. During this year no less than twenty-two thousand bales of cotton from Bundlecund or other places have been registered as entering Hingunghat, and thence consigned to Bombay. These consignments are of course sent for the purpose of being mixed with the staple from the Wurdah Valley and being sold as Hingunghat cotton. Whether this procedure amounts to adulteration technically, or to fraud actually, is a moot question still under consideration. But it is, in truth, objectionable, and damages the character of our indigenous staple.

The exports of the Nagpore cotton fabrics of the better kind have increased considerably during the year. Many specimens of these were displayed at the Nagpore Exhibition in January last. On the other hand, the imports of English goods have fallen off within the same period. The Native merchants believe this to be a mere fluctuation in the trade, and anticipate that the quantity of English goods, of the usual sorts, will still mount up. It may perhaps be supposed that they are right, inasmuch as this item has fully quadrupled within the last few years. And during the last season English-made piece goods have been for the first time imported into Nagpore, of a new sort, and of the very same kind as, indeed in close imitation of, those so long and successfully made in and about Nagpore, but at prices thirty per cent. lower. In the English articles the colouring is

much brighter, the texture equally fine, or indeed finer. In the Nagpore articles the interweaving of silk into the borders is superior, and perhaps there may be greater durability. But the difference of price seems conclusive in favour of the English goods. If this import continues, then the decline of the old cloth manufactures of the Nagpore country must set in. As these fabrics would in that case be superseded by cheaper stuffs of equal merit, the result would be good for the people at large. Nor in all probability would it hurt the weaving interest, for the hand-loom weavers would go off to other occupations where their skill and labour would be in greater request. Such has actually been the case with the weavers of the coarser stuffs, who are thrown out of that employment by reason of the increased cost of country cotton and of the influx of machine-made stuffs. These men have in thousands taken to other kinds of labour whence good wages are obtainable.

Much depends commercially, in various ways, on the supply of cattle for load and for draught. There are always murrains, and rumours of murrain, from which these most useful animals seem chronically to suffer. This year has not been free from the scourge, especially as the grass, parched from the want of winter showers, has been scanty. With the growing requirements of trade in respect to bullock-carriage, the wear and tear of animal life and strength has been quite cruelly severe. This has been partially, though not entirely, relieved by the opening of the Railway to points nearer Nagpore. This year fifty-six thousand bullocks have been imported into these Provinces, and eighteen thousand have been exported. The prices now ruling are 75 rupees for a common pair of bullocks and 180 rupees for a superior pair. These are much higher than they were formerly; but not so high as they were in 1864, when they stood, respectively, at 100 rupees (£10) and 250 rupees (£25).

As an illustration of the effect of the rise of the price of produce, it may be noted that the keep of a horse now costs more than thirty rupees (£3) a month, all things included, as compared with fourteen rupees (£1 8*s.* 0*d.*) a few years ago. This has affected the charges for the mounted police, the mail service, and such like branches. And it has been necessary to concede compensatory allowances.

The importation of salt into these Provinces has risen during the year, denoting, as the Customs Officers say, increased consumption, and certainly causing a substantial addition to the receipts of that department.

The trade returns of the traffic year, ending in June 1866, having been approximately made up, show an aggregate of trade, including imports and exports, of the Central Provinces with other countries, of one hundred and thirty-nine thousand tons, valued at five crores and eighty-three lakhs of rupees, or five millions and three quarters sterling, as compared with one hundred and forty-six thousand tons for the year ending in June 1865. But the above amounts in both years included Government stores and material for the Railways under construction, which of course are casual and exceptional items. If these items be excluded, then the trade proper of these Provinces with other countries is returned at one hundred and thirty-six thousand tons, valued at five millions five hundred thousand pounds sterling for 1865-66, against one hundred and thirty-four thousand tons, valued at four millions three hundred and eighty-six thousand pounds sterling in 1864-65.* There has thus been some slight increase of quantity. The increase in valuation, of course, mainly arises from the change of prices, and partly from more valuable commodities entering into the trade. During the past year, 1864-65, the trade was shown to have made a great stride onwards. That it should have kept up, and even slightly increased during 1865-66, is perhaps as much as could be expected under the circumstances of the year.

Heretofore the preponderance of exports over imports, both in bulk and value, leaving a large balance to be made up by the importation of bullion, has been a disadvantage in the trade of these Provinces. The bullion, instead of being used as capital and applied to the creation of new wants and the promotion of improvements, is to a great extent converted into ornaments, or emtombed in the earth. This year also, even after allowing for errors in valuation, there has been a large balance (apparently some 40 lakhs, or £400,000) made up by imported bullion, which has probably shared the same fate as the other hoards under ground. For the first time, however, the imports have exceeded the exports in bulk, and in this

* The amount of bullion is excluded in both cases.

respect have touched a higher figure than any yet reached. It may not be safe to generalize from such facts; but perhaps this may be a sign that the people are beginning to buy more articles of taste and luxury than they did.

Wages of all kinds continue to rise. If a common labourer at Nagpore can take his labour to the best market, he would earn eight annas (one shilling) a day. There are certainly many hundreds (some would say thousands) of labourers about Nagpore who do this Thousands, not so fortunate, can still earn from four to six annas. And this occurs in a country where in the last generation the same people could not have earned more than one anna (1½*d.*) a day. The Public Works authorities, with a commendable economy, have managed to keep their rates down to three and four annas a day. But it often happens that they can obtain a supply of labourers only in those seasons when other kinds of work are slack. But here again there is indication of the profit which must be accruing to the lower classes. For where a man in olden days worked hard for a part of the year, he now works continuously. When he has done cotton picking, or weeding in the fields, or garnering the crops of the landholders, he will go to the Road Engineer for a month or two, and stay there till the season for something more lucrative comes round. Moreover, the labourer brings his family also to the work; there being a separate rate allowed (on a lower scale, of course) for women and boys. The extent indeed to which women by thousands are taking to hard outdoor labour, is a proof of the struggle which is going on for existence. Carpenters, masons, bricklayers, who a few years ago would have earned from 6 to 10 rupees a month, can now earn from 15 to 25 rupees (£2 10*s.* 0*d.*). Native gentlemen constantly testify to the increasing difficulty of obtaining or retaining domestic servants, who are always leaving for more profitable occupations.

But although there is ample subsistence for those who can and will work, yet for those who cannot, the times must be very hard and inclement. The poor-houses do not indeed fill for the most part; but in some places there is much private almsgiving on the part of the richer natives. In the Hospitals and Dispensaries, admissions from typhoid fevers denote that sort of debility that proceeds from wretched food. Again, the annals of petty crime teem with instances of the evil inducements pro-

duced by individual want. In some quarters too, as for example parts of Sumbulpore, where from the remoteness of markets the lower classes cannot get wages to enable them to bear up against the high price of food, there is distress. And in our large cities there is that class (adverted to in the Report for 1864) too proud to dig, and ashamed to beg. Scores of such families must be in silence enduring a misery that grows intenser year by year. The comparative ease with which a normal institution for female teachers for the girls' schools was established at Nagpore, is perhaps a token that the broken down respectable classes are recognizing the necessity of exerting themselves. Notwithstanding these seams of poverty to be found among the strata of society, there is no general distress. Murmurs indeed are now and then heard, but none of the outcries that would soon be audible if there was any mass of trouble. Nothing is more common than to hear the natives say, that a dearness of provisions which had it occurred ten or twenty years ago would have excited riots in the towns, and caused the roads to be strewn with the dying, is now scarcely noticed by the majority of the population. If the people be not prosperous (and many would affirm that they are in the main), it must at least be admitted that they bear up bravely against the increased price of food and of all necessaries of life.

Those with fixed incomes, originally calculated to be not exactly ample, but merely sufficient, such as subordinate officials, have for some time past been pinched, and are now becoming pressed down by weight of distress in many cases. Already increases have been granted to the Customs employès, the Police, and such grades, in several districts. And further schemes, with the same view, are in contemplation for the clerks, natives and others, engaged in public offices and the Courts of Justice.

Whatever doubts might be felt, as to whether this or that class is well off, there would probably be unanimity as to the prosperity of the agricultural classes, which was perhaps a topic sufficiently dwelt upon in the last Report. They have had enough for their subsistence, with much over and to spare. Though they had not quite as much as usual available for sale this year, yet, for what they did sell, they got more than ever. The ryot is becoming more and more free from debt and advances. The landholder is either clearing off his old scores, or storing up unprofitably his gains in bullion or cash.

As affecting the interests of this the most important of all classes, the scope and character of the regular Settlement has been adverted to in former Reports. The revised assessment of the land tax, for periods of thirty and twenty years, is now about four-fifths complete. The determination of proprietary right all over the country is nearly finished, that is for about thirty thousand estates or villages. In adjudicating the varied tenures of the land, and adjusting the conflicts of claims, the Settlement Commissioner and his Officers have aimed at securing alike the rights of each class, leaning neither towards the one side nor the other. As explained in previous Reports, an absolute ownership of the land has been conferred upon the people. Besides the sharers in the village properties, by reason of blood and kinship, there is a considerable class of men judged after enquiry to be proprietors of the particular fields they cultivate; these men are, according to the returns, about sixteen thousand in number. Of the ryots, about two-thirds have been recorded as tenants-at-will on their own full admission. Of the remaining one-third, some have been declared, on a review of their past position, to possess full rights of occupancy; and in accepting the Settlement the landholders have engaged to respect those rights; while the rest are those ryots who, merely by length of time, would be held to have the rights contemplated by Act X. of 1859. These latter are informed that their position, in the above respect, depends on the Act, and might possibly be modified if the law were to be altered. All occupancy ryots of course understand that their rent is liable to equitable enhancement (the equitableness, if disputed, to be determinable by a Court of Justice) according as circumstances may change, or as competition may arise. In the large estates or chiefships owned by Zemindars or Chiefs, the position of the village head-men, sometimes called farmers, has been the subject of much doubt and enquiry. Many of these farmers have been decided to be lessees on terminable leases; others have after investigation been ruled to be sub-proprietors under the landlord as a sort of suzerain.

While the claim of the State to any ownership in the cultivated or occupied lands has been formally abandoned in favour of the people, and while, in addition to this, their right in proper quantities of waste has been allowed, it has been necessary to retain and assert the right of the State to the waste lands generally. Indeed, the demarcation of the waste lands has been

a large item in the business of the year. The Government waste thus marked off is managed in much the same manner as formerly; sometimes it is temporarily made over to neighbouring landlords on summary settlements; sometimes it is leased out for grazing, or for fuel preserves: again, pieces are let to individuals on clearance leases, or blocks are sold in fee simple under the rules. Purchases of waste land are becoming frequent; but the purchasers are nearly always Natives, and no marked result has yet been attained.

Last year the repeated out-bursts of epidemic disease, and the state of the public health generally, excited anxiety. This year the people have for the most part been spared these afflictions. If they would profit by such warnings, to be more careful in their habits and improve their dwellings, then adversity might indeed have its uses. But such a reformation, if ever accomplished, must be an affair of some time. Meanwhile, some known causes of epidemics are removed; for instance, those fairs and religious gatherings which are held in the transition season, from spring to summer, are stopped; the streams of pilgrims are diverted from lines of country where disease is known to be generated. Perhaps sanitary reformers may derive encouragement from the fact that cholera has for some years past been proportionately much less in the towns subjected to professional sanitation than in the villages of the interior. In many districts, however, over many square miles of country, the villagers have well responded to the call of the Civil Officers to whitewash dwellings, to remove deleterious rubbish, and the like. In the eastern district (Chutteesgurh), the local authorities made efforts to induce the people to improve the wells and tanks used for drinking purposes. Whether these measures will diminish the morbific forces which seem to be in chronic activity there, remains to be seen. Enquiries made in these districts as to the origin of epidemics have elicited many distressing disclosures regarding the habits of the rural population.

Whether, while the people are obliged by the stress of circumstances to rise up from sloth and work harder, their intelligence increases proportionately, is a question perhaps hard to answer. So far as external signs may be regarded, the schools go on increasing; the number of pupils in Government institutions being now 31,801. The grant-in-aid system expands, Rs. 11,203 (£1,120) being expended in that way, besides

several fresh proposals being under consideration. There is a growing desire to learn English in most districts: this much seems certain, whatever else may be doubtful. The Industrial Exhibitions, one held at Nagpore in December 1865 and one about to be held at Jubbulpore in December 1866, must cast some light upon the minds of the native spectators. And the land revenue settlement, by teaching every landlord and every tenant to look more closely to the survey of his own lands and to the adjustment of his own accounts and of his own rights, must have a sort of educating influence. Still in many parts of the country there is much of superstition, and here and there something of covert fanaticism. In the eastern districts, too, the persistent belief in witchcraft, evidenced sometimes by horrid outrages, despite the stern lessons of the criminal law, is but too clear an index of a low mental condition.

On the whole, and with some few exceptions only, the people in their relations towards the British Government deserve a *good* character. They are for the most part well conducted, not ordinarily addicted to crime, and hardly at all to violent crime; respectful towards the law, and obedient to rules and instructions.

Of the revenue, the main item, the land tax, has always been known to be light. Further demonstration of this has recently transpired. The new surveys in Chutteesgurh (comprising our eastern districts) show the old rates of assessment to have averaged but four annas (6*d.*) on the cultivated acre. These will now be raised by some 25 and 30 per cent., and a net increase of about one lakh and a half of rupees (£15,000) annually will be obtained; but even then, the rate will not exceed 5½ annas (8*d.*) the acre of cultivated land.

The regular income of the forest department has risen from something over half a lakh (£5,000) in 1864-65 to more than one lakh (£10,000) in 1865-66. Besides this amount, the proceeds from waste lands, now declared to be State property, have been separately exhibited this year. The total amounted to one lakh and a quarter (£12,500); of which the greater part constitutes a new head of revenue, which may go on increasing year by year.

The salt duties have remained the same; but their proceeds have risen from sixteen lakhs in 1864-65 to eighteen lakhs (£180,000) in 1865-66. The stamps have increased from five

lakhs to five and three-quarters (£57,250). The revision of the Pandree (Mahratta license duty) has resulted in an increase from one and three-quarter lakhs in 1864-65 to two and a half (£25,000) in 1865-66, notwithstanding that, in order to spare the poor, some 40,000 persons, formerly assessable to the tax, have been exempted.

For the management of the excise on spirits, the new Central Distillery system, though not uniformly successful, has produced somewhat more revenue this year than in former years. Testimony continues to be given from all quarters to the improved, even reformed, habits of the Gonds and hill tribes, resulting from the new system. That system has now been extended to Chutteesgurh. It still remains to be introduced into the country of Nagpore proper.

Of the local fund revenues, the largest item is that of octroi. In some places it was found that these duties had been pitched too high, and they had to be lowered. The income for the year, however, about nine lakhs (about £90,000) shows an increase.

Last year the fiscal receipts of the year, as shown by the Accountant General, amounted to ninety-four lakhs (£940,000) imperial revenue, and fourteen lakhs (£140,000) local funds; in all one hundred and eight lakhs (£1,080,000). This year, 1865-66, the accounts show ninety-eight lakhs (£980,000) imperial revenue, and seventeen lakhs (£170,000) local funds; in all one hundred and fifteen lakhs (£1,150,000). This gives an increase of seven lakhs (£70,000), or 6 per cent. for the year. During this year two lakhs (£20,000) have been lost by the cessation of the income tax. If that were excluded in both years from the comparison, then the gross increase would be nine lakhs (£90,000).

In respect to public improvements, the roads under construction are being carried on to the utmost extent that available means admit of. But the area of these Provinces is so great, as compared with their population and resources, and the ground is in many parts so rough, that it is really difficult by works of this kind to make an impression on the country, or to meet the requirements of the traffic. A very long time must elapse before these Provinces are supplied with a complete system of roads. Buildings for all departments of the public

service are more easily supplied; but in this respect, too, much remains to be done. At five stations, barracks on the new standard plans for the European troops are under construction, or are about being commenced; or else old barracks are being adapted to the modern designs. The actual works for the navigation of the Godavery have not advanced much during the year, by reason of several engineering questions being under discussion. But the project has been forwarded an important step by reason of the prosecution of the work at the third barrier having been sanctioned by the Secretary of State, the operations having been previously restricted to the first and second barriers. The Railway from Bombay has entered these Provinces at two points—the main line having been opened to Khundwa, the head-quarters of Nimar in the valley of the Nerbudda; and the Nagpore branch to Poolgaon, on the left bank of the river Wurdah. The rails have now reached a point within thirty miles of Nagpore. But the completion of the main line to Jubbulpore has been much delayed, and can hardly be expected before the middle of 1868. The branch of the East Indian Railway from Allahabad to Jubbulpore is progressing fairly well, and will probably be completed some time in 1867.

CHAPTER I.

JUDICIAL.

SECTION I.—CIVIL JUSTICE.

Enforcement of system.

IN my last Report I stated that the Judicial system of these Provinces was theoretically complete in all or nearly all its particulars; and that it remained to carry the system thoroughly into practice. Accordingly no new Laws, or changes influencing largely the administration of Justice, have been introduced during the year 1865-66. The attention of all the supervising Authorities has been directed to the practical working of the Laws and of the reforms previously introduced.

Attention to Law and Procedure.

2. Adherence to the established procedure; to the rules providing against undue detention of suitors and witnesses; to the regulation whereby the record of every case is made by the presiding Judge in his own handwriting; to the order whereby the language of each Court is declared to be the Vernacular of the district; to the injunctions regarding the proper elimination of pleas and issues,—has been continuously enforced. As observed in my last Report, the mere mention of these matters gives no adequate idea of the labor and attention required from supervising Officers, before all the different grades of Courts, presided over by Europeans and Natives, can be brought fully to act up to the instructions they receive. The periodical returns rendered from the various Courts do indeed show the amount of Judicial business done, and the expedition with which it is performed; but personal inspection and supervision alone suffice to test the quality of the work despatched by our Judicial Officers.

Special supervision of the Courts.

3. The manner in which this inspection and supervision is conducted is twofold. The supervising Authorities themselves visit the Subordinate Courts, and scrutinize the records, the procedure, and the decisions of the presiding Judge. It will be recollected that the Subordinate Courts in these Provinces are, Tehseeldars' Courts, Assistant Commissioners' Courts, Small Cause Courts; while the Superior Courts are, Deputy Commissioners' Courts, Commissioners' Courts, Judicial Commissioner's Court. Every month each Deputy Commissioner scrutinizes the records of a certain number of the cases decided by the Tehseeldars under him; the Commissioner scrutinizes a proportion of the cases

decided by the Assistant Commissioners of his Division or Commissionership. Each supervising Officer after such examination draws up a memorandum of the errors of procedure, or of judgment, which he has detected, and returns the cases with the memorandum to the Subordinate Court. In this way our Subordinate Civil Judges are receiving real instruction month by month. The Judicial Commissioner does not, in the ordinary course of things, scrutinize the cases of any Subordinate Court, except the Small Cause Courts; but whenever he has reason to think that any particular Court is careless or inattentive, he sends for a batch of cases from that Court, and takes such measures as may compel the presiding Judge to amend his errors. Further, the Judicial Commissioner from time to time examines cases decided in the Commissioners' and Deputy Commissioners' Courts. During the year under report all our Subordinate Civil Courts (except in the Jubbulpore Division) have been inspected by the Commissioners. Most of the Courts have been inspected by the Judicial Commissioner during his tour; and on his return to head-quarters he issued a Circular Order commenting on the various irregularities and errors noticed in the several Courts he had visited.

Two points in which shortcoming is still apparent.

4. The two points in our Judicial administration which still require much care, are the same which I noticed in my last year's report, viz., the training of our Tehseeldars to be good Civil Judges, and the enforcement of the rule regarding the proper elimination of pleas and issues. Both these matters are being constantly watched with much attention.

Increase of Litigation.

5. The Judicial statistics of the year show that Civil litigation has increased considerably, in respect both of the number of suits and of their average value. There were 39,188 suits, involving property and rights valued at Rs. 31,24,495 (£312,449), instituted during the year 1865, as compared with 32,655 suits, involving Rs. 20,02,965 (£200,296), in the preceding year. The average value of each suit in the year 1865 was Rs. 77 (£7-14s.), against Rs. 60 (£6) in the preceding year. The increase in litigation was greatest in the districts which hitherto had been comparatively backward and uncivilized; it was, moreover, apparent in all districts but one, and was spread over most of the Courts. This increase may perhaps be taken under existing circumstances as some proof that the population of these Provinces are progressing in wealth and prosperity.

Classification of Suits.

6. The proportion of increase in the several classes of Suits may be shown as follows:—

	No. of Cases.	
	1864.	1865.
Suits for or connected with Inheritance.	170	177
Marriage, Betrothal, &c.	202	294

	No. of Cases.	
	1864.	1865.
Religious Shrines and Customary fees..	111	142
Personal service	496	468
Mortgage	71	134
Tenancy, &c., of houses	359	314
Specific performance	429	155
Torts	388	521
Partnership	177	205
Debt on registered bonds	225	335
Debt other than on registered bonds ..	22,555	32,643
Other Suits not included in the above { Real property ..	1,304	1,403
Other Suits not included in the above { Personal property.	1,720	2,063

It will be observed that more than four-fifths of the litigation is made up of simple cases, for parole and book debts.

Suits between Money-lenders and Agriculturists.

7. In about one-fifth of the whole Civil litigation the Cases were between agriculturists and money-lenders. This proportion does not seem large; and the fact of its being so moderate is perhaps a cause for congratulation. It varied greatly in the different districts. In the Nagpore and Chutteesgurh Divisions the custom is for tenants to borrow money and seed-corn from their landlords; in the Jubbulpore and Nerbudda Divisions tenants borrow from local bankers, as in other parts of India. Landlords can usually settle with their tenants, without taking them into Court; while a rupture between a banker and his client usually ends in litigation. In support of this view, which was set forth and explained in my last Report, we find that for the year 1865 suits between bankers and agriculturists are, compared with the population—

In the Nagpore Division,	1	to	every	1,500	souls.
Do. Jubbulpore	do.		do.	800	do.
Do. Nerbudda	do.		do.	350	do.
Do. Chutteesgurh	do.		do.	1,100	do.

Average duration of Suits.

8. Satisfactory and sufficient promptitude continues to be shown by the Courts. Out of 39,632 Suits for disposal during the year 1865, only 343 cases were pending at its close. The average duration of each suit was 16 days; and the Judicial Commissioner considers that this average is as low as can be maintained, if all the requirements of the Law are fulfilled. In only one district was the average duration at all high, and even there it was only 31 days. In the Courts, generally, each suit came up for hearing three times, there being reckoned as a hearing both the day on which the suit was filed and the day on which decision was given.

Cost of each Suit.

9. The average cost of each suit during the year 1865 was 9 per cent. on its value, against 8 per cent. in the preceding year. The percentage of costs to value varied in the different districts in inverse proportion to the value of the suits; that is to say, justice was cheaper in the greater cases, and dearer in the smaller ones. This disproportion is perhaps inevitable, though it should be guarded against as much as possible. Still, on the whole, the costs generally are fairly moderate. That economy and management are adopted, is shown by existence of a surplus of the fees realized on the serving of processes after all expenses are paid. This surplus now amounts to Rs. 60,000, or £6,000, and will be devoted to measures for the improvement of the Judicial machinery and for the benefit of suitors.

Classification of Decisions.

10. The mode in which cases were disposed of, may thus be shown:—

Struck off on default	15	per cent. of total cases.
Settled out of Court by compromise ..	14	ditto.
Judgment confessed	34	ditto.
Decided *ex parte*	11	ditto.
Referred to arbitration	1	ditto.
Decided on their merits after trial ..	25	ditto.

The large proportion of cases in which judgment was confessed is perhaps satisfactory, as showing that the Courts are so far used as engines for the enforcing of just and clear claims. Out of the cases which were decided after trial, 77 per cent. went in favor of plaintiffs in whole or in part, and 23 per cent. in favor of defendants. The proportion of cases referred to arbitration is very small. This process does not seem to have become popular; but the attention of the Judicial authorities has been directed to the point.

Business of Appellate Courts.

11. While the Original suits increase, the number of Appeals preferred against the orders of Subordinate Courts continues to decrease. There were 1,468 Appeals in the year 1863, 1,378 in the year 1864, and 994 in the year 1865. The proportion of Appeals to cases disposed of in the last-named year was only 2·56 per cent. The Appellate Courts—

upheld the order in	64	per cent.	of the cases;
modified „	7	„	ditto;
reversed „	16	„	ditto;
remanded for re-trial	10	„	ditto.

All the above circumstances tend to the inference that the work is well done. Only three per cent. of the Appeals were pending at the close of the year. The average duration of Appeals in the Commissioners' Courts was 36 days in the year 1865, against 187 days in the preceding year, and 368 days in the year 1863. The average duration of cases on Appeal, as well of Original suits, is now as low as it can be expected to be.

12. Among the miscellaneous business which came before the Civil Courts during the year were 21,795 claims for execution of Decree, against 18,908 in the preceding year. 95 per cent. of these cases were decided during the year, and only 5 per cent. were pending at its close.

Execution of Decrees.

13. In my last Report I stated that a few candidates had passed the prescribed examination and had received certificates as authorized Pleaders. Several more candidates have passed during the year; and at all of our principal District Courts there is the *nucleus* of a Native Bar. The services of these Pleaders are much in request among the better classes of suitors.

Authorized Pleaders.

14. I will conclude this Section by quoting the Judicial Commissioner, Mr. J. S. Campbell, who reports that "altogether our Civil Courts have done well "during the year. Good judgment has been "shown in the decision of cases, and a decided improvement effected "in procedure."

Judicial Commissioner's general opinion.

Section II.—Criminal Justice.

15. Observing the order followed in my previous Reports, I will notice the administration of Criminal Justice under two heads; *first*, the state of Crime; *secondly*, the action of the Courts.

16. The following figures show that, as noticed in my last Report, the number of reported offences has a tendency to increase:—

Aggregate of Crime in the Central Provinces.

	Cognizable.	*Non-cognizable.*	*Total.*
1864.....	18,900	11,754	30,654
1865.....	22,297	10,279	33,576

This increase is mainly confined to minor and less heinous crimes. Some of the increase is due to the strictness with which the Laws and Rules for the maintenance of public health are now enforced. A similar vigilance has been exercised in enforcing the Revenue Laws, and the number of prosecutions under the Stamp and Abkaree (liquor excise) Laws has increased considerably. The continued rise in prices, though greatly compensated for by a corresponding rise in wages, may perhaps have caused distress to individuals, and thus temptation to commit petty crimes against property may have arisen. The facilities and conveniences given to complainants also operate to some extent in encouraging aggrieved persons to resort to our Criminal Courts.

17. In the eight worst kinds of crime the general decrease adverted to in my last Report continues, as will be seen from the following Table:—

Decrease of Heinous Crime.

	Number of Cases in			
	1862.	1863.	1864.	1865.
Murder	98	116	92	95
Attempt to Murder	14	16	13	11
Culpable Homicide, not amounting to Murder	29	37	20	20
Dacoity	61	73	32	25
Robbery	84	67	76	54
Attempt at Robbery	..	..	8	..
Administering stupifying Drugs with attempt to cause hurt ..	2	5	3	10
Rape	52	42	33	25
TOTAL ..	340	356	277	240

The totals of these heinous crimes show a diminution of 18 per cent. as compared with the year 1864. The proportion of heinous crimes to the population, being 1 to every 37,500 souls, may be regarded as small generally. It is found to be less in the Mahratta Districts around Nagpore than in any other part of these Provinces.

18. Out of the 95 Murders, only 18 appear to have been committed for the sake of plunder; the rest appear to have been perpetrated in fits of jealousy, or of some other passion. But the number is not on the whole large.

Gradual repression of Dacoity.

19. The decrease in Dacoities, and Robberies with violence, is the best feature in the Criminal Returns of the year. Dacoities have fallen from 32 in the year 1864, to 25 in the year 1865; while Robberies with violence have decreased from 76 to 54. And the Judicial Commissioner reports that "many of these cases are not what is "usually understood by the term Dacoity, but are merely ordinary "offences against property." Much of this good result is due, as mentioned in my last Report, to the operations of the Special Dacoity Department, whose sole duty it is to trace these cases to their original source; and to bring to certain, though tardy, justice gangs or persons who make their living by violent crime. I share the general belief that there are not now in these Provinces any persons who live by crime of this sort. The evil, however, is as yet far from being eradicated; for the tribes who formerly subsisted by violence are still in the country. If their strength has been reduced, still a *nucleus* of them must be in existence. They are ready to return to their old practices directly opportunity offers. Sometimes, despite all precautions that can be taken, a district or locality which had been for months entirely free from violent crime, becomes suddenly the scene of several startling outrages. We must be prepared to keep preventive efforts on full strain and tension for some time to come.

Other Crimes.

20. Of the other kinds of heinous crime the number of reported cases is small. Rape and Adultery seem to be rare among the people. Offences against the Coin have fallen from 84 in the year 1864, to 63 in the year 1865. The crime of Thuggee is unknown. There are no reported cases of infanticide.

Witchcraft.

21. The consequences of the popular belief in witchcraft—a superstition prevailing in the eastern parts, but not in other parts of these Provinces—form a melancholy episode in the Criminal Report. Whenever any calamity befalls the villagers, a cruel persecution of supposed witches sets in. Such persecutions of individuals does not always stop at maltreatment, but often goes on to murder. In such cases the murderers have been executed on the scene of the atrocity, in order to heighten the example.

Increase in minor Crimes.

22. Under the less important heads of Crime against Property there is an increase of reported cases. Ordinary Burglaries (House Trespass) have increased from 5,233 cases in the year 1864, to 6,891 in the year 1865. Under Ordinary Theft we have 9,618 cases, as compared with 9,019 in the preceding year. These facts do certainly merit serious consideration. A part of this increase probably arises from the sufferers being more willing to report their losses to the Police. Again, our Magistrates declare that landholders are beginning to act more and more up to their duty in respect of reporting crime, and this very properly would somewhat swell the returns. It is, moreover, true that in most Indian Provinces the number of reported crimes of this class does increase yearly for some time after the country is brought under regular Government. But, whatever weight may be attached to these legitimate causes of increase, I do not consider that we should rest satisfied with a large yearly increase in the returns of Petty Crime, unless we can show a much larger proportion of offenders brought to justice. I have impressed this view on all Magistrates and Police Officers.

Recovery of stolen Property.

23. The proportion recovered out of the aggregate of property stolen was 31 per cent. in the year 1865, as compared with 33 per cent. in the preceding year. The total value of stolen Property was Rs. 4,06,132 (£40,613) in the year 1865, against Rs. 4,01,761 (£40,176) in the year 1864. The number of successful prosecutions of receivers of stolen property continues to increase.

Cattle Theft.

24. The reported cases of Cattle Theft were 1,012 in the year 1865, against 1,208 in the previous year. The number of these offences reported to the Police has now been steadily decreasing during the last three years; while the proportion of convictions to reported cases has steadily increased. How far the decrease can be counted as real, may be doubtful. But even if all the offences of this class that occur are not reported, still the action of the Police and the Magistrates, so far as it goes, is good.

25. The number of complaints in cases not cognizable by the Police has risen from 11,140 in the year 1864, to 11,448 in the year 1865. As remarked in my last Report, this small, but continuous increase is, to some extent, a sign that the people find resort to the magisterial Courts easy and inexpensive.

Increase in complaints for Petty Offences.

26. I now come, *secondly*, to the action of the Courts:—

The despatch of business in our Magisterial Courts continues to be prompt in all districts. Out of 20,606 cases for disposal before the Courts during the year, there were only 66 pending at its close; out of 38,095 persons for trial during the year, there were only 117 under trial at its end. The average duration of the several classes of trials was—

Despatch of Business.

In cases sent up by the Police	3¼	days.
In cases taken up on complaint	6	„
In cases committed to the Sessions Court. ..	50	„
In appeals to Commissioners, as Sessions Judges.	21	„

27. The results of the Criminal trials of the year may be thus shown:—

Results of Trials generally.

(1). Of the total number of persons brought to trial before the Magistrates in cases cognizable by the Police, 84 per cent. were convicted or committed to the Sessions in the year 1865, against a percentage of 76 in the previous year.

(2). In cases instituted before the Magistrates on complaint, without the intervention of the Police, 62 per cent. of the persons summoned or arrested were convicted in the year 1865, as compared with 53 per cent. in the year 1864.

(3). Out of 443 persons committed to the Sessions Courts during the year, 68 per cent. were convicted and 32 per cent. acquitted. Last year the percentages were, respectively, 80 and 20.

(4). Out of 637 cases which were appealed to the higher Courts, the orders of the Magistrates of different grades were modified in 58 cases, and reversed in 86.

These results are, on the whole, good. The Judicial Commissioner considers the returns to show "that a very small proportion of innocent "men are placed at the bar; that the proportion of convictions to "trials is becoming more and more satisfactory, though there is "still room for improvement in this respect; and that the result of the "action of Appellate Courts is especially creditable to the higher "District Courts."

28. The manner in which punishments were inflicted may be illustrated thus:—

Analysis of Punishments awarded.

Out of 24,323 persons convicted during the year—

153	persons	were	sentenced	to imprisonment, whipping, and fine.
173	„	„	„	imprisonment and whipping.
1,480	„	„	„	imprisonment and fine.
3,287	„	„	„	imprisonment only.
4,063	„	„	„	whipping only.
15,220	„	„	„	fine only.

For each person sentenced to the several kinds of punishment, the average term of imprisonment was 7½ months, the average amount of fine was 10½ rupees (£1 1*s.* 0*d.*), the average number of stripes was 16. The fines imposed during the year amounted to Rs 1,77,985 (£17,798), out of which 70 per cent. was realized, and Rs. 21,923 (£2,192) were ordered to be paid to sufferers.

The above analysis may be considered to show that the Law has been administered with a fair degree of discrimination, and that full recourse is had to the punishments of fine and whipping.

General conduct of the Criminal Courts.

29. In respect to the general conduct of the Criminal Courts, the Judicial Commissioner, Mr. Campbell, writes:—

Procedure.

"It may, I think, safely be said that in Procedure steady progress has been made. Last marching season, in the course of a very lengthened tour, I had an opportunity of noting the errors in Procedure which were most general. These I embodied in a Circular Order to all Officers of the Provinces, and the result has been that the errors then pointed out have since, to a great extent, been avoided: and the example of close inspection has been well followed by Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners."

30. Touching the reform adverted to in my previous reports, whereby evidence in Criminal trials is taken down by the presiding Judge, the Judicial Commissioner, in his annual Report, records the following opinion:—

Record of evidence.

"The experience of the year entirely confirms what I wrote in my last Report, as to the great advantage gained by the introduction of the system of having all evidence recorded in the handwriting of the Officers themselves. The system has not been found in practice to entail any real extra labor, while it has brought the Officers into much more immediate communication with the parties concerned in cases, either as principals or witnesses; and the corrupt influences formerly so common about our Courts have not now the same power for evil."

Honorary Magistrates.

31. There have been 60 Honorary Magistrates at work in the various districts of these Provinces during the year. Of these, six are Europeans, and the rest Natives of India. These gentlemen disposed of 4,114 cases, or more than one-fifth of the Criminal trials of the year. In noticing the judicial business done by Honorary Magistrates, the Judicial Commissioner,

Mr. Campbell, writes. "that Deputy Commissioners generally report "extremely well of the work done by their Honorary Magistrates."

To this I would add that our Civil Officers generally are beginning to appreciate better than they did the important scope of the measure of creating Honorary Magistrates, as tending to raise the character of the upper classes, and ultimately to produce a good moral effect on the people at large.

SECTION III.—POLICE.

Strength of the Police.

32. As in previous Reports, I will first state the strength and cost of the Police in these Provinces, as they stood during the year :—

	Men.	*Rs.*	*£.*
Regular Police paid from the General Revenues	7,527	12,06,656	120,666
Municipal Police paid from Local Funds.	1,518	1,36,933	13,693
TOTAL ..	9,045	13,43,589	134,359

This shows an increase of 707 men, and Rs. 1,00,000 (£10,000) in round numbers caused by the provision of Police for the Bijeeragogurh territory, which was added to the Jubbulpore District during the year; by compensation being allowed to the Constabulary in certain districts on account of the dearness of grain; and by additions made to the Police of Towns. About half the total increase of expenditure is, however, chargeable to Local Revenues.

Success of Police in tracing out Crime.

33. The action of the Police, as tested by the proportion of apprehensions made in reported crimes, continues to show good results. In 1865 apprehensions were made in 81·0 per cent. of the crimes reported, while in 1864 the proportion was 81·7 per cent. Under the more notable heads of crime the out-turn of 1864 was creditable; and the following table shows progressive improvement in 1865 :—

OFFENCES.	Of cases reported, apprehensions were made in		Of persons sent* up to Magistrate for trial, there were convicted or committed	
	Cases per cent.		Persons per cent.	
	1864.	1865.	1864.	1865.
Murder	94·5	92·1	97·8	98·2
Dacoity	73·5	81·2	87·5	100·0
Robbery with hurt	74·0	63·6	90·0	100·0
Robbery.....	57·9	80·8	91·9	86·5

Repression of Heinous Crime and Dacoity.

34. But the most remarkable feature of the Returns, is the general decrease in the more heinous offences. My last Report showed a decided decrease in this respect; in the year now under review there is found a further decrease of 18 per cent. The downward tendency is happily perceptible in respect to Dacoity. The attention of the Police has been persistently directed to the repression of this crime, and the Judicial Commissioner reports the diminution to be largely owing to the success of the efforts thus put forth.

In	1862	there were	50	dacoities.
„	1863	„	56	„
„	1864	„	31	„
„	1865	„	20	„

The Special Dacoity Agency has hunted up both gangs and individuals, bearing, in some instances, the character of professional dacoits; and scarce a month passes without some old offender or some actor in these atrocities being haled before the Judge. Despite all this, however, there still occur cases which prove that even now there are persons in the country both able and ready to attack either houses or villages in a manner which resembles the normal and regular type of dacoity. So to speak then, dacoity, at the best, is only scotched; it is certainly not yet killed.

Miscellaneous duties of Police.

35. The miscellaneous and administrative duties of the Police are still heavy—5,550 miles of high-road have been daily patrolled; a daily average of 4,016 prisoners have been guarded in the different Jails and lock-ups; while Treasure guards and Treasure escorts have been furnished as in previous years.

* Persons arrested but discharged before trial are not included in this statement.

Improvement in detective ability of Police.

36. The Judicial Commissioner testifies that there is a gradual improvement in the detective ability of the Police, and that the Chief Constables are better instructed in their duties than they were. The above points, however, still constitute the weakest parts of the system, and much more improvement is still to be looked for.

Relations between the Police and the Magistrates.

37. Last year the improved relations between the Magistracy and the Police were adverted to with satisfaction. That favorable report is repeated this year, and these relations are stated by the Civil Officers to be as good as could reasonably be expected.

Bearing of the Police towards the people.

38. Again, the Judicial Commissioner, in endorsing the opinion of the several Commissioners and the Magistrates, has recorded emphatic testimony to the general good conduct of the Police, both as regards their performance of duty and their bearing towards the people. The appearance, drill, and discipline of the men continue to be creditable.

Police buildings.

39. The standard plans for all Police buildings having now been sanctioned by the Supreme Government, it is hoped that the construction of these buildings will progress with greater speed than heretofore. The manner in which the Police Department have maintained the existing temporary buildings, and have planted trees round about the same, with the moderate funds placed at their disposal, is satisfactory.

Violent Deaths.

40. The Police Returns furnish the following statistics of deaths, which may be interesting :—

	Died.	*Injured.*
From falling into tanks, wells, and rivers ..	904	67
From wild beasts	546	137
From snake-bites	651	112
From fire	82	..
From the fall of walls and houses	65	15
From other causes	345	55
From suicide	341	..

41. The same Returns show that by accidental fires during the year some 7,560 houses were burnt down, with a total destruction of property valued at Rs. 4,03,831, or £40,383.

Destruction of wild Animals.

42. The following statistics of the number of wild beasts destroyed in the districts during the year may also be added in this place :—

Tigers	543
Panthers and Leopards	760
Bears	392
Wolves	168
Hyænas	387
TOTAL ..	2,250

for which, rewards to the amount of Rs. 35,462 (£3,546) were paid.

Section IV.—Jails.

Jail Buildings.

43. The four Central Jails under construction have advanced a stage. The buildings at Nagpore are more than half completed. Those at Raepore, Jubbulpore, and Hoshungabad are being pushed on, but no accommodation in them was available at the close of the year. All the 13 District Jails have been much improved, though it has not yet been possible to make them all perfect according to modern requirements. The remaining five districts have Lock-ups built on new designs, which provide for all the recommendations of the Indian Jail Committee. In the construction and repair of all these Jail buildings there was an average of 784 prisoners per diem employed throughout the year 1865.

Number of Prisoners.

44. The total number of prisoners admitted into Jail was 9,935 in the year 1865, against 11,252 in the year previous. The daily average number was 4,016, compared with 4,193 in the previous year. Of the total admissions, 109 were juvenile prisoners, against 249 in the preceding year; the satisfactory decrease being attributable to the operation of the Whipping Act. Of the whole number of prisoners there were—

9	per cent.	imprisoned on a second	conviction.
2	„	„ third	„
½	„	„ fourth	„
¼	„	„ fifth	„

Jail Discipline.

45. The behaviour of the prisoners was, on the whole, good; for of the 14,118 prisoners who passed through the Jails during the year, only 804 were punished for breaches of discipline. The "good conduct system" is now in full working order, and it has already resulted in the improved behaviour of the prisoners. By the employment of prisoners as guards, warders, and work-overseers, it has been possible too to reduce the cost of the Contingent Guard. The number of prisoners who escaped during the year was 20, of whom 9 were recaptured. The escapes were less numerous in those Jails where the system of convict warders was most completely carried out.

Health in Jails during the year.

46. The prison death-rate has increased from 7½ in 1864 to 12¼ per cent. in 1865; though the daily average of admissions into hospital shows little increase when compared with former years. Cholera attacked eight of the Jails once during the year, one Jail (Nagpore) three times, and one Jail (Raepore) twice. Of the total 488 deaths, 143, or 29 per cent., are due to these visitations. The disease was generally prevalent in epidemic form in the cities and towns in the neighbourhood

of the Jails which were attacked. On the other hand, instances did occur of Cholera raging in the adjoining city or town, and not touching the inmates of a Jail. In none of the Jails which suffered could the visitation be traced directly to any sanitary defects. The prisoners were invariably at once removed into Camp when the outbreak began to show itself. The food and clothing of the prisoners were increased, disinfectants were used, and the local authorities did their best under emergent and distressing circumstances. Looking at the number of deaths from all causes in the Jails individually, the percentage was highest in Raepore, viz. 31·75, and lowest in Dumoh, viz. 0·80.

Finance of the Jails.

47. The average cost per prisoner under all heads of expenditure rose from Rs. 50-13-7 (£5 1*s.* 8*d.*) in 1864 to Rs. 57-14-7 (£5 15*s.* 10*d.*) in 1865, mainly under the head of "cost of rations," owing to the rise in prices. But the net cost to the State, after deducting the profits, direct and indirect, accruing from prison labor on manufactures and public works, was Rs. 25 (£2 10*s.* 0*d.*) only, which, compared with the net cost in the year previous, viz. Rs. 28¼ (£2 16*s.* 6*d.*), shows improvement.

Education of Prisoners.

48. The number of prisoners under instruction in the prison schools learning to read and write was 2,818, which, compared with last year, shows a slight decrease, owing to the larger proportion of prisoners employed on Jail buildings and other extra-mural Public works. Of the number of prisoners in Jail on the last day of the year, there were 266 who could read and write, and 1,321 who could read only; the remainder, or 1,941, could neither read nor write. Thus the proportion of those who had some, though a small, sort of education, was far from inconsiderable. The District Inspectors of the Educational Department continue to visit these Jail schools and supervise the course of instruction.

CHAPTER II.

REVENUE.

SECTION I.—LAND TAX.

Collections of the past and present year.

49. The demand on account of the Land Tax for the year 1865-66 was Rs. 55,65,810 (£556,581), or Rs. 62,677 (£6,267) below the demand for the previous year. The real Land Revenue demand of the year has not, however, in any way fallen: the decrease has occurred in the demands *nominally* due, which have fallen from Rs. 1½ lakhs (£150,000) to Rs. 36,092 (£3,609). Of the year's demand, Rs. 54,32,817 (£543,281) were collected in the year 1865-66, as compared with Rs. 53,91,977 (£5,39,197) in the year 1864-65. Rs. 20,479 (£2,047) were also collected on account of outstanding demands of former years. The balances on account of the Land Tax of 1865-66, which remained outstanding at the close of the year, amounted to Rs. 62,293 (£6,229); of this sum Rs. 36,092 (£3,609) were only *nominally* due, the remainder, Rs. 26,201 (£2,620), being the actual revenue which remained outstanding. The amount of this, the *real* balance, was owing, not to any inability of the Tax payers, but to an accidental misinterpretation in two districts of orders issued about the re-adjusting of the instalments. This balance, however, amounts to only one-half per cent., the merest fraction of the demand, and has been realized since the close of the year.

Progress of the regular Settlement.

50. The work of regular Settlement has been in progress during the period under report in everyone of the eighteen districts in these Provinces. By the close of the year 1865-66 the Settlement had been quite completed in five districts, viz. Saugor, Dumoh, Hoshungabad, Nursingpore, and Baitool. In five more, viz. Wurdah, Seonee, Nagpore, Jubbulpore, and Bhundara, it was far advanced, and will be completed during the current year. The above ten districts comprise all the most important parts of these Provinces. In the other eight districts there is still much Settlement work to do.

Assessment of the Land Tax.

51. The Land Tax of 3,387 villages or estates was regularly assessed during the year. The amount of the revised assessments was Rs. 4,92,473 (£49,247), or 12½ per cent. above the revenue which those estates formerly paid. The net result of the revision of assessments up to the present date has been an increase of 6 per cent. in the Land Tax of these Provinces.

52. During the year 1865-66 a large quantity of business has been done in investigating, deciding, and recording the several kinds of rights in the land. The investigations into tenant right have been conducted with particular attention, and by careful revision effort has been made to eliminate and rectify error. The quality of the work done is good, so far as can be judged from the decisions of the Appellate Courts. The people themselves also seem to have a keen appreciation of the manner in which their rights are being recorded. The total business performed up to the end of the year 1865-66 under this important division of Settlement operations may be thus shown :—

Record of right in the land.

Superior proprietary rights in 25,634 villages have been investigated and decided.

The rights of 15,644 owners of holdings have been investigated and recorded.

The status of 65,000 hereditary tenants has been enquired into and settled.

82,209 ryots have been found to possess occupancy right under Act X. of 1859, and have been recorded accordingly.

The holdings of 245,162 tenants-at-will have been attested, and the rents payable by them for the year of attestation have been recorded.

The claims and rights of village servants have been enquired into and settled for about 20,000 villages.

53. The enquiry into *Maafee* (revenue-free) grants of land has been completed in ten districts, and has much advanced in the rest. It appears that land revenue, amounting to about Rs. 3,09,387 (£30,938) per annum, is assigned under the category of revenue free tenures to private individuals or religious bodies. The total area of these assignments is about 1,641,655 acres. But the revenue on much of these assigned lands is foregone only for the lives of the present occupants. It is also probable that, when the enquiries and revisions are completed, some reduction will have to be made in the foregoing totals.

Revenue free *(Enam)* lands.

54. The other stages of the Settlement have advanced during the year. The business of measuring villages field by field is everywhere complete, except in some parts of Mundla and Chutteesgurh and in the recently added district of Nimar. The demarcation of excess waste lands, which remain as Government property, and are not bestowed in proprietary right on private persons, has been vigorously prosecuted, and is almost everywhere complete. In every district of the Central Provinces there are now valuable State properties, with a total area for each district ranging from three hundred thousand acres to seven hundred thousand acres. These lands are available either for purchase under the "Waste land sale rules," or for occupation on clearance leases, or for rent as pasture farms. Meanwhile, being separately marked

Other operations of the Settlement.

off and supervised, and being thus, as it were, brought to account, the dues receivable by the State are better ascertained, and the waste lands yield a large and increasing revenue year by year.

Advances to landholders for improving their properties.

55. Advances of money from the Treasury to landholders requiring the means for executing works of agricultural improvement, repayable by instalments without interest, have been made during the year in 152 cases. The recipients of such advances also spend considerable sums from their own resources on the tanks, wells, or other works for which the money is granted. Precaution is taken to ensure that the advances are really spent on the works for which they were intended. The periodical reports show that the various works are progressing well. The punctuality, with which instalments due on advances of former years are repaid, to some extent shows that the landholders fully estimate the advantages conferred upon them.

Annual Village Papers.

56. In previous years I have had to report that, while Settlement operations were in progress, the yearly village papers, which form a continuous record of all facts relating to the land, its holders, and its occupiers, could not be prepared with punctuality or exactness. During the year 1865-66, however, the revenue authorities have been able to pay some attention to this important subject, and the yearly papers for villages have been punctually prepared. I have arranged that still more care shall be given to this matter during the current year. It is very necessary that these documents should be correctly prepared and punctually received; for on them depend the continuity of the record of property compiled at the regular Settlement, and also the stability of the rights which vest in a vast body of tenantry.

Suits between landlord and tenant.

57. The total number of cases decided in the Revenue Courts during the year, under the "Law of landlord and tenant," was 5,056, besides 1,279 petitions for execution of decree. There were only 56 cases and 80 petitions for execution of decree undecided at the end of the year. These numbers are about the same as those for the previous year. An analysis of these cases shows that three quarters of the business under these Laws consist of suits brought by landlords to recover arrears of rent. Litigation under the Rent Laws of a more intricate kind, such as suits for fixing rate of rent, and the like, has not yet arisen, because questions of this kind are set at rest, temporarily at least, by the Settlement Courts.

The harvests of the year.

58. The total rain-fall of the year 1865-66 was quite equal to the average of the last ten years. But the rains were not, on the whole, seasonable; for almost the whole of the rain-fall was registered before the end of August. As a consequence, the rice crops of Chutteesgurh and of the Wyne Gunga Valley yielded the only good harvest of the year. The millet (Jowaree)

and cotton crops were tolerably good; the wheat and other spring crops were in some localities fair, and in others very poor. The crop of the Mhowa (*Bassia latifolia*) flower, which has an important bearing on the comfort of the hill people, failed almost entirely. Notwithstanding all this, there has not been in a single district of the Central Provinces anything approaching to general starvation or want. It is the unanimous testimony of all the local authorities that the chief classes of the population are well off. But there are instances, perhaps even many instances, of individual distress. The great and continued rise in prices has compensated farmers for the shortness of their crops. The wages of daily labor continue to rise. The price of skilled labor has risen even more largely than any other kind of wages. The only class which seems to suffer from the universal rise in prices is the official class. Subordinate officials and petty pensioners do, it is believed, often find it difficult to live on their means. It is even stated by some District Officers that the efficiency of the public service in the dearer districts is becoming impaired from this cause.

Rise in price of landed property.

59. Now that the people understand the meaning of the proprietary rights conferred upon them, transfers of landed property are becoming common. The selling price of land is everywhere rising. As yet, the general price of lands in the Nagpore country does not exceed two or three times the land tax assessed upon it. But in the districts above the Hills lands usually fetch five or six times the amount of their land tax. And an estate near Baitool, which was sold during the year, fetched a fancy price equal to seventeen times the land tax payable upon it.

60. I will conclude this Section by subjoining the following extract from an interesting statement which the Settlement Commissioner compiled, to show the rise of prices which has everywhere taken place. It will be seen that during the last six years prices have risen cent. per cent. in every district; in many districts they have risen 300 per cent., and in one district 700 per cent.

	Number of seers of Wheat procurable for one rupee, in the year—*	
	1861.	1866.
Nagpore	27	9½
Bhundara	22	10
Wurdah	24	8½
Chanda	37	7
Jubbulpore	48	15
Saugor	27½	14
Mundla	54½	14
Seonee	42¼	13½
Dumoh	33	12
Hoshungabad	42	15¾

* Each seer is equal to about two pounds in weight.

Nursingpore	36	13½
Baitool	37	12
Chindwara	33¼	11⅓
Raepore	49	16
Belaspore	120	15
*Sumbulpore	47	8
*Upper Godavery District	40	8

SECTION II.—OTHER TAXES (SALT TAX, EXCISE ON SPIRITS AND LIQUORS, STAMPS, &c.).

Salt and Sugar Duties.

61. The several kinds of salt which are consumed in these Provinces, and the manner in which our salt revenue is raised, have been fully explained in my previous Reports. In my last report I mentioned that the substitution of the Imperial Customs cordon for a local line along our western frontier had been effected during the year 1864-65, and that the only part of these Provinces where salt duty was collected on a local line was the district of Nimar. By the end of the year 1865-66, arrangements were completed for throwing the cordon round Nimar, and so securing order and system along the whole of our Customs line. The whole of the Imperial line from Saugor round the western frontier, then round the southern frontier, thence to the eastern frontier up to the most easterly point of British Sumbulpore,—was in full working order throughout the year, over a length from end to end of 660 miles. The only alteration of duty effected during the year was to raise the rate on Bhooshkee (Berar) salt to 3 rupees (six shillings) a maund, of 82lbs., the rate at which Rajpootana salt has long been taxed. When the salt tariff was first framed the Bhooshkee (an earth salt of Berar) was an ill refined salt, and could not compete with the sea salt of Bombay. But superior methods of refinement having been introduced into Berar, it became necessary to put the Bhooshkee salt on the same level with the Bombay and Rajpootana products.

Total receipts.

62. The total yield of the salt and sugar taxes for the last two years may be thus compared:—

	1864-65.	1865-66.
Imperial Line	Rs. 15,71,569	Rs. 17,92,524
Nimar Line	„ 11,043	„ 50,415
Total ...	Rs. 15,82,612	Rs. 18,42,939
	(£158,261)	(£184,293)

The cost of maintaining the Salt line amounted to Rs.4,06,710 (£40,671), or 22 per cent. on the gross receipts.

* For these districts rice, being the common food of the people, is taken in place of wheat for both years.

Opium import duty.

63. It having been found that the three-fold mode of levying opium duty—by an import duty, an excise on growth, and a farm of the retail monopoly—did not work advantageously, either for the revenue or for the opium producer, the sanction of the Supreme Government has been obtained to the abolition of the import duty, and to the levy of a very moderate fee on licenses to grow opium. The monopoly of the retail sale of opium is, and will still be, leased out as heretofore. The object of the change was—*firstly*, to increase the revenue from the monopoly farm, and *secondly*, to remove restrictions from a kind of crop for which the soils of parts of these Provinces is specially suited. The first object has already been in part gained, by a rise in the price bid for the opium monopoly. A short time will show whether the breadth sown with the poppy is likely to increase.

Excise on Spirits and Drugs.

64. It has been stated in my former reports that the excise revenue in some districts of these Provinces is raised by farming the monopoly of manufacture and vend of spirits and drugs, while in other districts it is raised by a still-head duty on all liquor. I have dwelt in those reports on the superiority, on moral considerations, of the latter, or, as it is commonly called, the "Central Distillery" system. The experience of another year has added further testimony to the truth of what was then said. The Gonds and other hill tribes, who used to be notorious drunkards, are no longer addicted to drunkenness, or are much less inclined to excess, though they may not have ceased to drink. Some of the circumstances narrated by officers who come much in contact with these tribes are full of interest. The Gonds are to a certain extent gradually changing their habits; they seem to be settling down into permanent habitations, and sometimes even attaching themselves to the land they cultivate. Formerly, these tribes planted their coarse grains on one hill side this year, and the next year they moved off to another hill or valley, setting up for themselves rude huts, of matting and branches, at each clearing. Now they are in some places, slowly and by degrees, adopting a more regular and settled manner of living; they are beginning to plough and reap like other people; to possess bullocks and to hoard money; and to procure ornaments for their wives. The women of the Gond families seem particularly to appreciate the change which has taken place, and they have been heard to attribute the improvement to the new system of excise. Formerly, their husbands, they say, could get drunk for a penny or twopence, and the liquor shop was brought almost to every man's door; now no man can get drunk under sixpence, and he has often to go some little distance from his home to get liquor at all. So far as can be learnt, neither the Gonds, nor any other large class of the people, were ordinarily in the habit of taking daily a small amount of liquor to stimulate or refresh their bodily powers. Liquor is in no sense to a Gond what beer is to an English labourer. When an ordinary Native drinks at all, he drinks till he becomes intoxicated. To drink without

getting drunk is, in a Gond's estimation, to lose the whole zest of the thing. Under the Central Distillery system, it is less easy to get drunk than it used to be; and thus many classes have ceased to drink at all. Of course, there are times and seasons when a dram is beneficial, and when indeed liquor is still taken; as for instance, the rainy season, or the wood-cutting time, or any other period of arduous and unwonted labour. Such moderate amount of liquor as the people want, and can afford to buy, they still can get. The reports for the year 1865-66 show that, as mentioned in my last report, smuggling and illicit distillation are rare.

Extension of the Central Distillery system.

65. In my last report it was stated that the Central Distillery system was in force in eight out of the eighteen districts which compose these Provinces. In the year under report this system was extended to the Nimar District, and was managed with success. The "Abkaree" (excise) income of that district for 1865-66 was only 17 per cent. below the income of the last year of the old, or monopoly farm system; and it was only 9 per cent. less than the average income of the last few years before the new system was introduced. This result is considered to be highly satisfactory, in a fiscal point of view; for heretofore in other districts the loss of revenue in the first year of the Central Distillery system has been more considerable, though in the second and third years the revenue somewhat recovers itself. From the beginning of the current year, 1866-67, the Central Distillery system has been introduced into Chutteesgurh, a tract where the excise revenue had hitherto been remarkably low. The five districts immediately round Nagpore and the Upper Godavery District are the only parts of these Provinces where the monopoly farm system is still in force, and the introduction of the improved system into those tracts is under consideration.

Yield of the year's excise.

66. The total excise revenue for the year 1865-66 amounted to Rs. 9,27,996 (£92,799,) as compared with Rs. 8,78,797 (£87,879) in the preceding year. The rise under this head of revenue is not so large as had been expected. The smallness of the increase is mainly due to the partial failure of the Mhowa crop, from which the liquor used in these Provinces is chiefly made. The increase was confined to eight districts, in six of which the old, or monopoly farm system, was in force, and in two of which the new system obtained. There was a decrease in nine districts, in six of which the Central Distillery system was in force. The excise administration of the eighteenth, the Nimar District, has already been separately noticed. The decrease of revenue in six districts, where the new system obtained, must not, however, be taken as an evil augury for the eventual success of the system, even in a fiscal point of view, for the circumstances of the year were peculiar. But, as has been previously stated, the

grounds on which the change of system has been advocated here, as well as in other parts of India, have reference to considerations of morality and good government, rather than increase of revenue.

Income Tax.

67. It is not necessary for me to remark in detail on the Income Tax, as this impost was in force for only one quarter of the year under report. The total demand for the quarter was Rs. 70,675 (£7,067), all of which was collected, save a small balance of Rs. 101 (£10).

Stamps.

68. In my last Report I stated that the Stamp revenue for the year 1864-65 was 20 per cent. above the Stamp revenue of the year 1863-64. I have now to report that during the year 1865-66 the revenue under this head has made a further advance of 15 per cent. The gross receipts of Stamp revenue for the year 1865-66 were Rs. 5,73,837 (£57,383), as compared with Rs. 5,03,194 (£50,319) in the year 1864-65. The total number of non-official vendors in these Provinces is now 1,037, and through their agency 78 per cent. of the year's Stamp income was realized. More and more attention is everywhere being paid to the proper enforcement of the Stamp Laws. Prosecutions for breaches of those Laws rose from 257 in the year 1864-65 to 985 in the year 1865-66,—a fact which indicates increased vigilance in enforcing the Law.

Miscellaneous Revenue.

69. The collections under the head of "Miscellaneous revenue" have risen from Rs. 1,75,425 (£17,542) in the year 1864-65 to Rs. 2,08,131 (£20,813) in the year 1865-66. The chief item in this department of revenue is the Pandree, an old Mahratta impost, the assessments to which, as stated in my last Report, have recently been carefully revised. The tax, as it was originally defined, was assessable on all householders who did not make their living by agriculture. The assessments went as low as four annas (sixpence) per head per annum. The revision of assessment has been conducted in such a manner as to exclude from liability to the tax all householders who could not afford to pay eight annas (one shilling) per annum, and also with a view to secure something approaching to equality of incidence. The results of the revision have been, to grant immunity from the tax to about 35,000 persons who formerly paid less than eight annas (one shilling) apiece per annum; but to raise the totals of the assessment from Rs. 1,61,782 (£16,178) to Rs. 2,44,933 (£24,493). The number of persons on whom this sum is assessed is 186,385; thus making an average demand of Rs. 1-5-0 (two shillings and sevenpence) per tax payer. Formerly, the number of persons assessed to Pandree was 208,189, and the average rate of incidence on each person was Rs. 0-12-6 (one shilling and sixpence). The effects of the re-assessments are not fully visible in the collections of the year 1865-66; but the full revised demand will be realizable in the year 1866-67.

Section III.—Total Revenues.

70. The actual Imperial revenues for the year 1865-66 may be compared with those for the year 1864-65, thus:—

	1865-66.	1864-65.
Land revenue	Rs. 54,53,296	Rs. 54,90,427
Customs (Salt, &c.)	„ 18,42,939	„ 16,95,309
Excise on Spirits	„ 9,44,894	„ 8,77,855
Income Tax	„ 71,582	„ 2,26,145
Stamps	„ 5,73,837	„ 5,03,194
Forests	„ 2,02,644	„ 92,469
Miscellaneous	„ 2,26,125	„ 1,75,584
Total ...	Rs. 93,15,227	Rs. 90,60,983
	(£931,522)	(£906,098)

Totol revenue of the year.

It will be seen that the revenue of these Provinces continues to increase. The only head of revenue under which appreciable decrease is shown is Income Tax, regarding which no remark is needed. The slight difference in land revenue arose, as already explained, from a casual misapprehension, whereby the whole demand of the year 1865-66 was not collected within the year. The error was detected, and the full demand has since been made up. The sums so collected will go to swell the revenues of the year 1866-67. Notwithstanding the cessation of the Income Tax, the revenues of the year 1865-66 were 2¼ lakhs (£22,500) above the revenues of 1864-65. The ratio by which the revenue increased during the year was thus about 2½ per cent. If the Income Tax be excluded from the comparison, then the actual increase would stand at 3¾ lakhs, or 4 per cent.

CHAPTER III.

EDUCATION.

71. Before describing the progress of Education, with reference to the several classes of schools, I will briefly state the general results of the year.

Increase of schools and of expenditure.

72. Schools of all classes have increased from 1,185, at which number they stood at the close of 1864-65, to 1,441 in the year under report, 1865-66. The number of pupils attending these schools, on comparison of the same two years, increased from 34,400 to 46,738. The expenditure on education has similarly risen from Rs. 2,81,553 (£28,155) to Rs. 3,38,067 (£33,806); of which latter amount Rs. 2,02,604 (£20,260), or 60 per cent., were paid from the local two per cent. Educational Cess Fund and private contributions, and the remainder from Imperial revenues. The total expenditure of the year was thus distributed :—

Direction	3·30 per cent.
Inspection	14·20 „
Instruction	82·50 „

Cost per annum of each pupil.

73. The cost per annum of the education of each pupil was Rs. 7-3-9 (fourteen shillings and fivepence), including some extraordinary expenditure on account of buildings; excluding that amount, it was Rs. 6-15-5 (about fourteen shillings). The Central and Branch Book Depôts sold 66,435 school books, realizing Rs. 16,578 (£1,657).

74. Following the order observed in my previous reports, I will now advert briefly to the different classes of schools, namely :—

1.—Zillah (or District head-quarter) Schools.
2.—Normal Schools.
3.—Grant-in-aid, or Aided Schools.
4.—Town Schools.
5.—Village Schools.
6.—Female Schools.
7.—Indigenous Schools.
8.—Zemindaree Schools.

Zillah Schools.

75. The number of Zillah schools remains the same as last year, viz. 10; but there was an increase of ten per cent. in the number of pupils on the rolls. The Saugor school, the largest institution of this class, is the only one

in these Provinces from which scholars have passed the Calcutta University Entrance Examination. At the examination in December last, one student passed the first examination in Arts, and three the Matriculation examination. This is so far well: but the good as yet obtained from this Institution is far from commensurate with the cost, labor, and learning devoted to it. Many pupils in this and the other Zillah schools are making progress towards the University standard. The average cost for each boy during the year stood at Rs. 23½ (£2 7*s.* 0*d.*), against Rs. 25½ (£2 11*s.* 0*d.*) in the previous year. This diminution in cost, despite the general rise of prices, shows some economy in management. The total of fees collected was Rs. 1,871 (£187), while in the year previous it was only Rs. 864 (£86).

Normal Schools.

76. The number of Normal schools has been increased from 4 to 6; one having been opened at Khundwa in Nimar late in the year; and one, a female Normal school, at Nagpore in September 1865. The attendance of pupils had risen from 117 to 138. There were 140 certificated Masters passed through these schools during the year, against 113 in the year previous. In the Nagpore Normal School especially, the teaching staff having been much improved, the style of instruction has been proportionately raised. The female Normal school at Nagpore has 20 females now attending it, all of respectable character, and apparently anxious to fit themselves for employment as teachers. The average cost of each student was Rs. 71 (£7 2*s.* 0*d.*) for the year under report.

Aided Schools.

77. Of Aided schools of the higher class there are seventeen existing, as described in my last Report. The attendance increased during the year to 1,229, from 1,100 in the year previous. The cost to Government of all these Institutions was Rs. 11,203 (£1,120) during the year, while the expenditure from other and private sources was Rs. 15,677 (£1,567).

Town Schools.

78. The Town schools are 96, as compared with 93 in the previous year. The number of pupils rose from 7,356 to 8,494. The fee collections rose from Rs. 2,317 (£231) to Rs. 2,768 (£276), and the average cost of instruction per boy from Rs. 4-11-2 (nine shillings and fourpence) to Rs. 5-4-10 (ten shillings and sevenpence). The languages read are:—

English by	92	pupils.
Marathi by	3,281	„
Urdu by	1,542	„
Hindi by	3,515	„
Oorya by	327	„
Teloogoo by	74	„
Sanscrit by	12	„

I last year stated that the standard of attainments in these schools was rising; in this year again, a steady, though perhaps slow, increase has

been going on in the number of boys in the higher classes. Some of these Town schools are noticed by the Director of Public Instruction as having been eminently successful during the year. But the others are not advancing so well as they might; the younger boys remain too long in the lower classes, and the elder boys often get rather beyond their Master. The teachers indeed are not equal, either in respect to numbers or qualifications, to the growing requirements of these schools. The necessity for increasing the salaries of the staff of Town Schoolmasters is under consideration.

Village Schools.

79. Village schools have increased in number from 486 to 546; with an increase of pupils on the rolls from 15,104 to 18,984. The fee collections amounted to Rs. 3,016 (£301). The cost of instruction for each pupil during the year averaged Rs. 4-6-4 (eight shillings and ninepence). The largest measure of success in schools of this class has been attained in the Northern Circle. In the district of Sumbulpore (of the Eastern Circle) the progress in education has been remarkable, more so indeed than in any other district of these Provinces within the same time. This appears to be owing to the recent pacification of the district, to the co-operation of the Brahmin classes, and to the exertions of the District Officer. In the Southern and Eastern Circles, comprising the districts of the Nagpore territory, there has also been some progress.

The School Cess.

80. The doubling of the School cess, sanctioned during the year previous, has made it possible to increase the salaries of the Masters of Village schools, and the quality of the instruction given is consequently superior to what it was. The number of these schools might be considerably augmented, were qualified teachers available: the want is being gradually supplied from our Normal schools.

Female Schools.

81. The desire for female education is gradually expanding. Last year I was able to report an increase from 47 girls' schools with 804 pupils, to 65 schools with 1,294 pupils. This year the number has further increased to 91 schools with 2,361 scholars. All these schools are open to the inspection of the Departmental Officers, and no difficulty has yet been raised in that respect. I have myself seen many of these new institutions, and believe that a fair beginning has been made.

Indigenous Schools.

82. Of Vernacular indigenous schools there are three classes, viz.,—1*st*, those receiving a regular monthly grant-in-aid from Government; 2*nd*, those receiving grants regulated by results proved at examinations held by Officers of the Educational Department; 3*rd*, those receiving gifts in money or books. There were 460 schools aided in one or other of these ways when my last report was written; in the year under report there were

661. The number of scholars on the rolls was 12,772, against 6,227 in the year previous. The pecuniary aid, however, afforded to these schools amounted to only Rs. 428 (£42), while the expenditure from private sources was Rs. 16,585 (£1,658). Thus it is the people themselves who in the main support these schools.

Zemindaree Schools.

83. Zemindaree schools, or schools maintained by Feudatories and Chiefs on their estates, increased from 7 with 263 scholars, to 19 with 1,002 scholars. These schools do not require aid from Government, being supported by comparatively wealthy and powerful persons at the instance of, and with encouragement from, the Civil authorities. The expenditure thus entirely defrayed from private resources amounted to Rs. 2,100 (£210). These institutions are visited by the Educational Officers; and they may be expected to increase further.

Police Schools.

84. Besides the above classes of schools there are Police schools, or schools for the instruction of policemen and their children. There are two Police schools in each district—one attended by adults, of whom there were 529, and the other by boys and girls, of whom there were 347 on the rolls: the latter are not so well attended as they ought to be. The District Superintendents of Police are responsible for the management of these schools; but arrangements are being made for bringing these institutions more directly under the Educational Department.

Expenditure on School buildings.

85. In my last Report I said that the work of building school-houses was nearly complete in most districts. The expenditure on this account during the year is, therefore, somewhat less than that of the year previous. Thus there were expended on school-houses—from Imperial revenues Rs. 8,309 (£830), from Local and Municipal funds Rs. 9,559 (£955), from private subscriptions Rs. 33,241 (£3,324), or an aggregate of Rs. 51,109 (£5,110) during the year under report, against Rs. 89,421 (£8,942) in the previous year.

School Committees.

86. The School Committees of the principal citizens in all the Towns continue, despite many shortcomings, to give some support to the cause of Education.

Central Museum, Nagpore.

87. The Central Museum at Nagpore is now not only filled, but even over-stocked. In it are held the periodical meetings of the Antiquarian and Scientific Society,—an institution still in its infancy.

CHAPTER IV.

PUBLIC WORKS.

88. In this, as in my previous Reports, the various classes of Public Works will be treated of in the following order:—

I.—Military Buildings.
II.—Civil Buildings.
III.—Communications, Roads, and Bridges.
IV.—Railways.
V.—Canals and Irrigation.
VI.—Navigation Works.
VII.—Miscellaneous and Municipal Works.

SECTION I.—MILITARY BUILDINGS.

Sanatarium at Mohtoor.

89. In my last Report I mentioned that the temporary buildings at the Mohtoor Sanatarium were being extensively repaired. These repairs have now been executed, but no detachment of troops has been sent there this season. Whatever doubts exist as to the salubrity of the place during the rainy season and autumn, my opinion as to its advantages during the hot season remains unchanged. Still, I incline to the opinion that, as a permanent Sanatarium for all seasons, the neighbouring station of Chindwara will be found preferable; while use can well be made of the buildings at Mohtoor during the hottest period of the year. This question is now under consideration.

The Cantonments of Kamptee, Jubbulpore, and Saugor.

90. At Kamptee (Nagpore) it was mentioned in my last Report that new quarters for married soldiers were being constructed. These have now advanced towards completion in the best style. The old barracks being faulty, the commencement of new ones on improved modern designs is in contemplation. It was also stated that at Jubbulpore and Saugor the commencement of the new European barracks was awaiting the settlement of various questions. These buildings have now been fairly begun at both stations. At Jubbulpore the barracks for three Companies and a large Regimental Hospital are complete; and at Saugor the foundation and plinths of two upper-storied barracks have been executed, and two are in hand. Arrangements are being made for the construction of buildings for the new Ordnance Depôts and Magazines to be established both at Kamptee and at Jubbulpore.

Section II.—Civil Buildings.

Construction of the two new Civil Stations.

91. Of the two new Civil Stations under construction, viz. Khundwa (Nimar) and Wurdah, great progress has been made during the year at Wurdah, which has been formally opened for public use, and is now occupied by the Civil Officers and establishments of the district. The Court-houses in various parts of the country, mentioned in my previous Reports as under construction, have now been for the most part completed in substantial style.

Educational and Jail buildings.

92. The progress made with educational buildings and with Jail buildings has been described in the Chapter relating to Education and to Prison Discipline, respectively. The progress made in Church buildings will be mentioned in the Chapter on ecclesiastical affairs.

Section III.—Communications, Roads, and Bridges.

The three Trunk lines.

93. The three Trunk Lines, namely the Northern Road, the Southern Road, and the Eastern Road, on which our road-making efforts are mainly concentrated, have been fully described in my previous Reports.

The Northern Road.

94. On the Northern Road the principal works of the year are—the construction of the large bridge (5 arches of 45 feet span each) over the Kutnee north of Jubbulpore; the completion of the Shere and Bijna bridges (each with 5 arches of 50 feet span), and the opening of the Korai Pass—all between Nagpore and Jubbulpore; and the commencement of the new bridge (to consist of 12 arches of 80 feet span each) over the Kunhan River at Kamptee. This difficult and important road, crossing a broad mountain range, and connecting the two principal places of these Provinces, is now after four years of unremitting labour nearly completed; the whole will be open for traffic during the next travelling season.

Eastern and Southern Roads.

95. Full progress, according to the budget provision, has been made with the Eastern and Southern Roads, though the works executed are not of such calibre as to require notice in this Report.

Road from Saugor.

96. In para. 128 of my last Report, the importance of commencing the Road from Saugor to the nearest point of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway was adverted to. Such commencement has now been ordered, and will be carried out after the present monsoons shall have ceased.

97. The old Trunk Road from Khundwa (Nimar) towards Indore is greatly in need of repairs, amounting almost to reconstruction. If possible, work will be commenced on it during the next open season. But this must mainly depend on the extent of funds available.

The Trunk Road in Nimar.

98. The materials for masonry works, whether stone, brick, or lime, have proved satisfactory, and have been obtained without difficulty. But the material for the roadways, technically called metalling, has caused endless trouble and disappointment. Here there are few or almost none of those beds of Kunker close to the roadsides, as in Northern India; nor any of that soil so favorable for making bricks for metalling, as in Bengal. In many parts of these Provinces excellent stone is indeed procurable, which *could* be broken up for road-metal; and in some places excellent gravel for binding is found. But such materials are seldom sufficiently near at hand to be made use of for our roads at a reasonable cost. The only stuff, which can always be easily met with, consists of the inferior sorts of trap, and the like, which become pulverized on exposure to sun and rain. Again, the earth-work when thrown up proves in many places to be most difficult of consolidation. The thickest layers of metal sometimes after heavy rain sink into, and become imbedded, or even buried in the soft, pulpy, yielding masses of earth. By degrees, layer being added on layer, a durable *substratum* is formed, over which fresh metalling when laid down will answer well; and thus in time, perhaps our metalled roadways may become good. Meanwhile, the delays occasioned in this way are such as can hardly be described in a Report like this.

Material for roadway and masonry.

99. The road works under the various Local Committees are of a detailed and miscellaneous character; and though the aggregate is large, it is difficult to select for mention any particular work of magnitude. Their operations have been scattered over a very broad area, and their expenditure has been considerable.

The Road works under Local Committees.

100. The expenditure on roads, exclusive of all establishments, during the year, amounts to Rs. 6,49,722 (£64,972) in the Public Works Department; and by the Local Committees to Rs. 1,32,263 (£13,226),—in all to Rs. 7,81,985 (£78,198).

Expenditure on Roads.

SECTION IV.—RAILWAYS.

101. Following the same order as that observed in my previous Reports, I will advert very briefly to,—1*st*, the line from Bombay to Jubbulpore; 2*nd*, the branch to Nagpore; and 3*rd*, the line from Jubbulpore to Allahabad.

Three Lines of Railway.

It will be remembered that the two first belong to the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company; the third to the East India Railway Company.

The Railway from Bombay to Jubbulpore.

102. The line from Bombay to Jubbulpore was, at the period of my last Report, opened from Bombay as far as Boorhanpore, a town on the extreme western frontier of these Provinces. It is now nearly ready to be opened to Khundwa, the head-quarters of the Nimar district, some forty-three miles further on. Beyond that there has been fair progress up to the end of the section contracted for by Messrs. Hood, Winton, and Mill, that is, to within about 120 miles of Jubbulpore. The great work in this Sub-division is the viaduct over the Towa River, which, after many delays and difficulties, will be finished in about one year. Thus far the line may be completed during 1867, as mentioned in my previous Reports. But for the remaining distance into Jubbulpore the prospects have now become uncertain. The Railway Company, having cancelled arrangements with the Contractors, Messrs. Norris and Weller, who had become unable to carry on the work, were obliged to take upon themselves the construction of this part of the line. Such circumstances must always involve delay; and though efforts are being, and doubtless will be made by the Company's servants, still there are four large viaducts to be finished, namely those of the Nerbudda, the Shere, the Sukkur, and the Doddye. The last of these will not be completed before the end of 1867 or middle of 1868. It is just possible that the expectation of opening the Railway to Jubbulpore sometime during 1868 may be fulfilled.

Branch line to Nagpore.

103. The branch to Nagpore is about to be opened for general traffic as far as the Wurdah River, on the frontier of these Provinces. Further, after many unforeseen delays in fixing the girders of the large viaduct over that river, the line has been completed some distance onwards, till now, the Contractors' Engine is running to a point within thirty miles of Nagpore. It appears that the Railway may be opened for traffic to Nagpore by the end of 1866 or the beginning of 1867.

104. Before quiting this topic I may be permitted to testify to the great improvement in the conduct of affairs effected by the Agent, Captain Sherard Osborne, R. N., C.B.,—an improvement perceptible to all who may have occasion to observe the progress of this Railway.

Railway from Allahabad.

105. It is still anticipated that the line from Allahabad will be completed to Jubbulpore by the beginning of 1867. Good progress has been made in many respects; still, two large viaducts remain to be completed. And there is much building yet to be done at the terminal Station.

Section V.—Canals and Irrigation.

106. Under this head no actual work has been commenced; but the following projects have been completed, *viz.* :—

Projects completed.

that for the country near Seonee,
" " " " Sawnair (Nagpore District),
" " " " Kuttungee (at foot of the Sautpoora Hills).

The Bhore river irrigation scheme has been commenced upon.

107. The Seonee project has been submitted for orders (cost 1¾ lakhs (£17,500); estimated profit 4 per cent.); but the Government of India have hesitated to accord sanction to it, unless the estimated income from the undertaking shall be found to be larger than what is now anticipated.

The Seonee project.

108. The Sawnair project is still in the hands of the Executive Engineer; but the estimate and plans are soon expected. The works are somewhat extensive, running for a length of 20 miles, to irrigate some 180 square miles of fine country between the Kunhan and Kolar rivers.

The Sawnair project.

109. The Kuttungee project is also still with the Executive Engineer, and, like the above, is soon promised. This work lies between the Wyne Gunga and Chunnee rivers, and is estimated to afford irrigation for about 200 square miles.

The Kuttungee project.

110. The Bhore river scheme has been three-fourths surveyed, and the work is being plotted. The irrigation channels will spread over 50 square miles of country round the new Civil Station of the Wurdah District.

The Bhore river scheme.

Section VI.—Navigation Works.

111. Revised plans and estimates for the works proposed for the 1st and 2nd barriers on the Godavery have been submitted to the Government of India, and during the year operations on the 1st barrier only have been proceeded with. The Anicut, or great dam, may be considered as three-fourths finished; the sluice wall has been finished; the head-lock nearly completed; the canal and the flood embankment have been two-thirds finished; the upper tail-lock is in progress.

Progress of works on the Godavery.

112. During February and March last, Lieut.-Colonels Anderson and Fife (Officers of special experience in Southern and Western India) were deputed to make a careful inspection of the whole Godavery Navigation scheme, and are to submit a report on the project in general. Pending the receipt of their report, and the decision of such points as may be involved therein, works at the 2nd and 3rd barriers have not been commenced.

Mission of Colonels Anderson and Fife.

Steamers and boats.

113. The steamers and boats for the transport and supply departments have been maintained, and the operations of this branch of the work have proved satisfactory and complete, as far as the requirements of the season demanded.

Sanction of works.

114. The Secretary of State's despatch, dated 8th February 1866, on the general matter of the navigation of the Godavery, has been received, sanctioning the prosecution of the works originally proposed for the 3rd barrier, with a view of affording navigation up to Chanda on the Wurdah, or even up to Hinghunghat in the cotton districts. The report by Colonels Anderson and Fife, above referred to, only is awaited before taking steps to begin work vigorously.

115. Though the work executed during the year is not large, yet the project generally has been much developed and advanced towards final determination.

Section VII.—Miscellaneous and Municipal Works.

Local works and improvements.

116. The works under this category consist of public improvements carried out by the various Local Committees. In my previous Reports I have described generally the character of these works, and specified the principal among them. These operations have great local interest; and they conduce, not only to sanitary and material improvement, but also to the elevation of the tastes and ideas of the people. But any description that could now be given of them would be unavoidably more or less a repetition of what has been said on former occasions. It must suffice to note that the works previously noticed, scattered as they are among literally a hundred places all over these Provinces, have been prosecuted during the year, and many other fresh works of the same kind have been undertaken. The amount expended from municipal and local funds during the year stands at Rs. 2,52,502, (£25,250). The larger cities, such as Nagpore, Jubbulpore, and Saugor, have been thus operated upon, till their external aspect has become much changed. The smaller towns in all the districts have been brought under municipal management. As already reported, upwards of ninety Municipalities have thus been formed. It is remarkable that wherever these works have been carried out the improvement of private dwellings has followed. If a street or market-place be opened out by authority, the neighbouring householders are seldom, or never, slow in erecting either new frontages to old houses, or else new houses altogether. Attention is, of course, paid more and more to drainage, to sewage, to latrines, and to all matters pertaining to the public health.

Section VIII.—Total of Public Works.

117. The following is an abstract of the expenditure on Public Works during the past two years :—

		Military Works.	Civil Works.	Roads.	Navigation Works.	Miscellaneous Public Improvements.	Tools and Plant.	Establishment.	Profit and Loss.	Advances for Stock.	Total Expenditure.	Local Works.	Grand Total Expenditure.
1864-65.	From the year's Budget Grant, { Rs.	2,76,424	2,82,658	10,33,304	4,08,207	..	90,608	5,08,000	733	68,697	26,68,631	6,46,528	33,15,159
	£.	27,642	28,266	103,330	40,821	..	9,061	50,800	73	6,870	266,863	64,653	331,516
1865-66.	From the year's Budget Grant, { Rs.	4,17,378	6,93,696	8,13,972	4,74,908	14,401	40,777	6,20,264	59,515	..	31,34,911	8,24,105	39,59,016
	£.	41,738	69,370	81,397	47,491	1,440	4,078	62,026	5,951	..	313,491	82,410	395,901

CHAPTER V.

POST OFFICE.

Provincial head of Postal Department.

118. During the year the Imperial Postal Department in these Provinces was, pursuant to repeated recommendations as explained in former Reports, placed under the charge of a Chief Inspector of Post Offices; and a more efficient and centralized administration may now be looked for.

The through Mail from Bombay to Calcutta.

119. The through Mail from Bombay to Calcutta now passes through Nagpore. In a few days it will be brought by the Railway from Bombay up to a point within 30 miles from Nagpore, whence it will be conveyed on pack-horses and Mail cart, according to the state of the road, to Nagpore, and thence to Jubbulpore and Mirzapore, where it catches the rail to Calcutta. The mail service from Nagpore to Mirzapore is under a special European Superintendent. The arrangements along the line are reported to be efficient. And during the last six months the average speed attained by the mails on this important line has increased fifty per cent.

Rural Post Offices.

120. The rural postal service recently sanctioned by the Government of India, at a cost of Rs. 40,674 (£4,067) per annum, has also been placed under the general supervision of the Chief Inspector. The cost of this service is defrayed in part by a special cess paid by the landholders, which yields Rs. 28,000 (£2,800) per annum. These interior postal lines, branching minutely throughout the interior of the country, are in fair order. There are now no less than 176 Post Offices of various grades in these Provinces, and they are coming into general use with the people. The number of letters carried by these rural posts in the year 1865-66 was 632,803, as compared with 252,000 in the year 1864-65. The income of the year under report from prepaid, not prepaid, and registered letters, was Rs. 13,662 (£1,366).

CHAPTER VI.

ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH.

121. Within the year under report no new line of Telegraph was constructed in these Provinces. But it has been decided to open an Office at the important cotton mart of Hingunghat in the Wurdah District.

Telegraphic communication.

122. Telegraphic communication in these Provinces during the year has not been free from occasional interruptions, caused by the falling of the wooden posts on which a great portion of the line is still supported. But the Director General has given special attention to the matter. Progress is being made in the substitution of Hamilton's standards along the whole line. When the renewal of all the Telegraph lines shall be complete, it may be hoped that constant care will make interruptions of communication more rare than they are now. The distance over which Hamilton's standards have been planted during the year amounts to 84 miles.

CHAPTER VII.

FINANCIAL.

123. A Financial Statement prepared by the Deputy Accountant General will be found appended to this Report. As explained in a previous year, the financial returns are prepared somewhat later than, and therefore are slightly in excess of, the revenue returns which were given in preceding chapters of this Report. The form of the financial statement given this year differs in some respects from the form followed in former Reports. The Deputy Accountant General has, however, shown this year the "receipts" and "charges" under each head of Imperial and Local revenue. This form of Statement, if followed in future years, will show exactly how far the Imperial Revenue and the Local Funds, respectively, continue to increase.

Revenue receipts of the year 1864-65.

124. From a perusal of the statement it will be seen that the total receipts under the head of "Imperial Revenue" are put down at Rs. 99,00,655 (£990,065). In the year 1864-65 the amount stood at Rs. 93,80,710 (£938,071). The revenue receipts of the year 1865-66 thus exceed those of the preceding year by Rs. 5,19,945 (£51,994). And this increase, of nearly six per cent., has been attained in a year when one item of revenue, viz. Income Tax, has entirely disappeared.

125. The several headings of revenue, having been fully noticed in the preceding Chapter II., require no further remark here.

Local Fund receipts.

126. There has been a considerable increase in the income from the Local Funds. The total receipts for the year 1865-66 are set down at Rs. 17,07,613 (£170,761). In the preceding year the amount was Rs. 13,78,512 (£137,851). The increase, amounting to 24 per cent., has chiefly accrued under the heads of "Municipal Fund," "School Fund," "Ferry Fund," and "Nuzzool Fund."

Total public income.

127. Taking the Revenue and the Local Fund receipts together, the total public income of the year 1865-66 was Rs. 1,16,39,694 (£1,163,969). But the sum of Rs. 1,26,778 (£12,677), as explained in a note to the appended financial statement, is shown under both Revenue and Local Fund receipts. A deduction on this account having been made, the total income of the year 1865-66 is Rs. 1,15,12,916 (£1,151,291), as compared with Rs. 1,07,59,222 (£1,075,922). The ratio of increase over last year's income is thus 8 per cent.

Municipal taxation.

128. Much attention has been directed during the year to regulating the Municipal funds of our many cities and towns, and to adapting the mode of levying local taxes to the requirements and circumstances of each town. In most places the octroi duty has been found to work well, provided the rates of duty are very moderate, and provided that when any trade or industry suffers from a particular rate of duty steps are at once taken to modify such rate. There are, however, towns, which, being merely *entrepôts*, or places where traffic rests in transit, would be injured by any octroi duties whatever. Care has been taken to substitute house-tax in such towns for octroi duty.

Expenditure of the year 1865-66.

129. The total expenditure for the year 1865-66 (inclusive of all Civil and Political charges, but exclusive of charges for Army and Public Works) is shown at Rs. 64,93,017 (£649,301). It stood at Rs. 55,93,421 (£559,342) in the preceding year. This increase is spread over most heads of charge. Very much of it is unusual, and will not recur. I proceed to notice in detail the several heads.

Analysis of increase of expenditure.

130. Under the head of "Refunds" 3½ lakhs (£35,000) were disbursed in refunding land revenue collected between the years 1854 and 1863. The refunds were made in conformity with certain promises given to the people in the year 1854. Those pledges having been now redeemed in full, no further expenditure of this will have to be incurred. Charges under the next head, "Land Revenue," will henceforward decrease year by year as the revised Settlements, which cost much money, are one by one completed. Under the head of "Forest" no decrease, but rather an increase of charge may be expected. The yearly rise in the Forest revenue will, however, amply compensate for the small additional expense. The same consideration applies to the annually increasing charges under the heads of "Customs (Salt)" and "Stamps." Under the heads of "Public Departments" and "Law and Justice" the expenditure appears to be at present stationary. But some increase under these heads may be found unavoidable. The enhanced charge for Police is due chiefly to the including in the accounts of charges on account of Municipal Police. Against this increase there is a *per contra* increase of receipt under the head of Police, on account of payments made by Municipalities which support their own Police. This, therefore, is nominal, being merely a transfer from one heading to another. Part of the enhanced charge for "Police" is, however, due to the extra pay granted to constables to compensate for the increasing dearness of provisions. There is an increase of charge under the head of "Education." This increase may, it is hoped, progress slightly year by year. The charges for these Provinces under the heads of "Ecclesiastical" and "Medical," amounting to 1½ lakhs (£15,000), are shown in the appended statement, though they have not found a place in the financial statements of previous years. There is also an increase of about a

lakh and a half (£15,000) under the head of "Allowances under Treaties and Engagements." This increase, though paid out of the year's revenue, is fairly chargeable to capital account; inasmuch as it represents the amount expended in capitalizing and paying off in lump sums pensions which had hitherto been paid annually.

Main heads of increased expenditure.

131. From the analysis in the foregoing paragraph, it will be seen that the great increase of expenditure which this year's accounts show, viz. 9 lakhs (£90,000), are divisible into four main heads, as follows:—

(1). 3½ lakhs (£35,000), due to an incidental and extraordinary outlay which will never recur.

(2). 2¼ lakhs (£22,500), due to the appearance in the accounts of charges which were not shown in the financial statements of past years. Against a portion of this charge there is a set-off of 1¼ lakhs (£12,500), which has this year appeared on the "receipt" side of the statement for the first time.

(3). 1¼ lakhs (£12,500), due to the expenditure on capitalizing and paying off in lump sums annual pensions.

(4). 2 lakhs (£20,000), due to the cost of improved machinery for collecting revenue; and the increased cost of progressive administrative departments, such as "Education." Except under the head of "Land Revenue," decrease in charges of this kind cannot be expected.

Local Fund expenditure.

132. The expenditure under the several headings of "Local Funds" has been nearly in proportion to the receipts. The only "Funds" under which considerable unexpended balances remained at the end of the year, were the "Ferry," "Municipal," "Putwaree," and "Tulubana" Funds. It is desirable that income under "Funds" like the two former should be spent year by year as it is received; and after all, the unexpended balance to the credit of "Funds" of this kind at the end of the year was only Rs. 1,10,000 (£11,000). Arrangements are being made for expending the "Putwaree" and "Tulubana" (process fee fund) on improving the Revenue and Judicial branches of the administration. The total Local Fund expenditure of the year 1865-66 was Rs. 15,17,826 (£151,782).

Post-audit system.

133. My last Report referred to the introduction of the Post-audit system. I have only now to add that the system has worked well, and has obviated many delays.

Bank of Bengal branches.

134. A second branch of the Bank of Bengal has been opened at Jubbulpore, and has taken charge of the Treasury at that place. The two chief Treasuries of these Provinces, at Nagpore and Jubbulpore, are now entrusted to

branches of the Bank of Bengal. A subordinate branch of the Bank was opened temporarily at the cotton mart of Hingunghat; but its business there did not begin till the cotton season was nearly over. Next season this branch Bank, if it begins work earlier in the year, will be a great convenience to the cotton trade.

Currency note circulation.

135. The circulation of Currency notes has hardly fulfilled its early promise, as described in my last Report, and has now become much limited. Notes for large sums are not issued at all; the bulk of the notes issued in former years had found their way to the head office at Calcutta, and have there been retained. Currency notes have, therefore, not been largely used as Bills of exchange; and they have not, as yet, come much into common acceptance, so as to circulate from hand to hand in the bazaars.

Copper Coin.

136. In former Reports advertence has been made to the demand for copper coin. This demand has now been fully met, and, so far as can be ascertained, the bazaars are fairly supplied with copper money. Special enquiries, recently made from Railway Contractors and other large employers of daily labour, have served to confirm this view.

Cost of Military Forces in the Central Provinces.

137. The Garrison of these Provinces is of about the same strength as it was last year. Its cost is shown to have been Rs. 59,51,444 (£595,144). The increase over last year's Military expenditure, amounting to about 5 lakhs (£50,000), is due, in part, to the rise in the price of provisions, which entails augmented pay to private soldiers in proportion to the range of prices.

Public Works expenditure.

138. The expenditure by the Department of Public Works, inclusive of the cost of the Godavery Navigation Works, amounts to Rs. 31,34,911 (£313,491). This does not include expenditure from Local and Municipal Funds.

Aggregate expenditure of all kinds.

139. Thus the total Imperial expenditure within the Central Provinces for the year 1865-66, may be stated in round numbers, as follows:—

	Lakhs of Rupees.	*£.*
All Civil and Political charges, as per Deputy Accountant General's Statement... ...	65	650,000
On account of the Army	59	590,000
On account of Public Works Department ...	31	310,000
TOTAL ...	155	1,550,000

CHAPTER VIII.

ECCLESIASTICAL.

140. During the year under report a special Chaplain for the Civil station of Seetabuldee (Nagpore) has been appointed; but the want of spiritual aid in most parts of these Provinces is still felt.

The building of Churches.

141. The progress made in Church building during the year may be thus stated. A Church at Raepore has been completed in all respects; one at Bhundara has been completed; one at Chindwara has been advanced towards completion. The superstructure of the Hoshungabad Church was completed to 4 feet, and all materials collected at the site. The furniture for this Church is nearly ready, and has been prepared in a superior style. At Khundwa, in Nimar, the new Church is approaching completion. As stated in previous Reports the new Church at Seetabuldee (Nagpore) is finished. During the year additional decorations, internally and externally, have been supplied, and the structure is now complete in all respects, except the tower and spire. The commencement of a new Church at Jubbulpore has been ordered,—the old Church being too small and inconveniently situated in respect to the troops. The old Court-house at Dumoh has been ordered to be fitted up as a Church. Subscriptions are being raised for new Churches at Nursingpore and at Chanda.

Cemeteries.

142. A new Cemetery is under construction at Asseergurh in Nimar, and one has been recently sanctioned for the Upper Godavery District. The Cemeteries at all the stations in these Provinces are kept in repair and maintained in decent order.

CHAPTER IX.

POLITICAL.

Feudatories.

143. In the last Report it was explained that the Supreme Government had decided, that out of the 115 Chieftains in these Provinces, 14 only were entitled to rank as Feudatories. During the year the Chieftain of Rehracale in the Sumbulpore District has been added to the list of Feudatories, in consideration of the position of his family and the improved administration of his territory. Most of the Chieftains of these Provinces were present at Nagpore in January last, at the Durbar held after the closing of the Exhibition, and opportunity was taken to present the Feudatories with the adoption Sunnuds (Patents) granted them by the Viceroy and Governor General of India. This recognition by the British Government, of their rank and titles, made heritable in their families for ever, either by blood or adoption, with the duties and responsibilities attaching to their high position, was fully explained to the assembled Chiefs. Acknowledgments of fealty (Ikrarnamahs) under their hands and seals were taken from them at the same time.

Phooljhur Chief.

144. The title of "Rajah" has been conferred on the Chief of Phooljhur, who succeeded to the estate, under sanction of the Government of India, in 1863. Though this Chief is only an ordinary subject, yet the title, which was accorded to him, has been held for generations by the lords of Phooljhur.

Soorundur Sah's party.

145. The rebel Soorundur Sah, a pretender to the sovereignty of Sumbulpore, and his chief adherents are still kept as political prisoners in the fortress of Asseergurh under Regulation III. of 1818. The only man of any consequence connected with the Soorundur Sah conspiracy, who was at large when my last Report was written, namely Kowul Singh, has since been apprehended, and now awaits his trial in the Raepore jail.

Dulmeer Khan.

146. Another noted rebel, one Dulmeer Khan, who took a very bad and aggravated part in the troubles at Saugor in 1857, was traced as a practising Vakeel at Benares, and apprehended last year; when he was brought to trial and committed to the Sessions. But on appeal he was released by the Judicial Commissioner for want of sufficient proof.

147. The final partition of the Chiefship of Thooamool, between the Pat and That Rajahs, was carried out in March last by the Deputy Commissioner of the Sumbulpore District; thus putting an end to the long pending dispute between these two Chiefs.

Thooamool dispute.

148. An Officer from the Central Provinces has been deputed, to meet one appointed by the Government of Madras, to report on the dispute between the Rajah of Kharonde (Kalahundy) on our south-eastern frontier and the Chief of Chinna Kinnedy in the Madras Presidency regarding the boundary of the Mohenjery estate.

Boundary dispute in Kalahundy.

149. A final report has been brought out regarding the disputed boundary between the Rajah of Jeypore, of the Madras Presidency, and the Rajah of Bustar in the Central Provinces.

Boundary dispute in Bustar.

150. Negotiations for exchanges and other territorial arrangements in Nimar with His Highness the Maharajah Holkar have progressed during the year, and it is expected that the main stream of the Nerbudda will soon be the clear boundary between British and Foreign territory on our north-western frontier. This exchange will give us command of the entire line of trunk road to Indore up to the left bank of the river, and enable us to consolidate our arrangements in Nimar.

Exchanges of territory with Holkar.

151. The territory of Bijeeragogurh, confiscated in 1858 on account of the misdeeds of its rebel Rajah, was transferred in May 1865 to the Central Provinces. It was added to the Jubbulpore District, of which it now forms a distinct Tehseeldaree, or revenue sub-division.

Bijeeragogurh.

CHAPTER X.

MILITARY.

Total Military strength.

152. The strength and complement of the Military Forces in these Provinces remain much the same as heretofore—the total amounting to about 9,500 men of all ranks. But during the year many conclusions have been arrived at, which will place the Military occupation of the country on a formal and regular footing for the future.

Garrison of Nagpore;

153. The final decision of the Government of India was received as to the permanent location of an entire Regiment of Native Infantry at Raepore and of the wing of a Native Infantry Corps at Sumbulpore: the former will be furnished from the Nagpore Force, the latter from Cuttack. It has also been determined to permanently garrison Nagpore, the head quarters of the administration, with the following troops:—

1 Battery of European Artillery.
50 Men of European Infantry.
1 Wing of Native Infantry.

The Artillery and European Infantry will be quartered in barracks on the Hill Fort of Seetabuldee, while the Native Infantry will take up the barrack and lines formerly occupied by the Native Regiment of the old garrison.

at Chanda and Seroncha;

154. Further, the stations of Chanda, and Seroncha on the Godavery, have been declared to be permanent stations for detachments of regular troops.

at Saugor and Jubbulpore.

155. The strength of the Force to be maintained at Saugor and Jubbulpore has been definitely fixed by the Government of India, as given below:—

SAUGOR.	1 Field Battery European Artillery. 1 Garrison do. do. do. 1 Regiment European Infantry. 1 Do. Native Infantry. 1 Do. Native Cavalry.
JUBBULPORE.	1 Battery European Artillery. 5 Companies of European Infantry. 1 Regiment Native Infantry & Detachment Native Cavalry.

156. Steps are being actively taken for the erection of a new Ordnance Depôt at Kamptee (Nagpore), with a view to removing thither the establishments of the old Arsenal now at Seetabuldee. The abandonment of the old fort in the Saugor City, as a Depôt and Magazine, has been ordered, and a new Magazine for the supply of the Saugor Field Force is to be placed at Jubbulpore.

Arsenals.

157. The inspection of cells for the separate confinement of European soldiers by a non-military Committee, appointed by the Local Administration, has been carried out during the year in the Cantonments of Nagpore, Jubbulpore, and Saugor, where there are European troops stationed.

Military cells inspected.

158. In March last the final sanction of Government was received to the draft rules under Clause 7, Section 19, of Act XX. of 1864,—"For inspecting and controlling houses of ill fame, and for preventing the spread of venereal disease" in Military Cantonments. These rules have accordingly been introduced experimentally into the Cantonments of Jubbulpore and Saugor, where the necessary buildings and establishments for the Lock Hospitals have been provided. The introduction of the rules into the Cantonment of Kamptee still awaits the concurrence of the Government of Madras, but a Lock Hospital has been in existence at that station for some years. Arrangements are now in progress for extending the rules to all villages whose boundaries come within a radius of four miles of the several Military Cantonments.

Lock Hospitals.

159. Cholera encampments have been selected in the neighbourhood of all Cantonments where either European or Native troops are stationed in these Provinces; and the recommendations of the Cholera Commission, in respect of the eligibility of sites for the camps and other cognate matters, have been attended to.

Cholera camps.

160. The Nagpore Volunteer Corps continues at its average strength of about 80 men. On the whole, they are fairly efficient.

Volunteers.

CHAPTER XI.

FORESTS.

System of forest management.

161. In my last Report it was mentioned that a set of forest rules for these Provinces had received the sanction of the Supreme Government and had been published. I also described the system of forest administration, whereby certain selected tracts out of the Government forests are set apart as "reserves" and are managed by the Officers of the Forest Department, while the rest of the Government forests are placed under the control of the local Civil authorities. In the "reserves" all rules of conservancy are strictly enforced, and in them no timber can be felled or forest produce gathered without a license from the Forest Officers. In the "unreserved" forests five of the more valuable kinds of timber, viz., Teak, (*tectona grandis*), Sal (*vatica robusta*), Saj (*pentaptera tomentosa*), Sheshum (*dalbergia latifolia*), Beejasal (*pterocarpus marsupium*), are strictly preserved, and no trees of these sorts can be felled without special license. In respect of their other products, viz. firewood, bamboos, grass, lac, gum, &c., the unreserved forests are leased annually to farmers. Timber, however, in these forests cannot be felled in any quantity without special license. All forest produce taken out of the forests under such license has to pay duties, as provided in the forest rules.

Forest revenue of the year.

162. Under the forest system, as sketched in the foregoing paragraph, the sources of revenue are—the sale of timber, licenses to cut timber, leases of unreserved forest, duties on timber or produce brought out of unleased forests. In the year 1864-65 the forest revenue under all these heads amounted to Rs. 89,306 (£8,930); during the year which has just passed the forest revenues amounted to Rs. 2,02,643 (£20,264). Out of this sum over Rs. 1,07,000 (£10,700) was realized from unreserved forests by the local authorities.

Administrative measures.

163. The administrative sub-divisions into which the forests are divided were described in the last Report, and also the relation which the Officers of the Forest Department bore to the Civil authorities. Both the forest and the Civil Officers have now learnt to appreciate fully their duties in respect of forest management.

The two-fold business of conserving valuable timber and developing the forest revenue has everywhere, with a few exceptions, proceeded steadily. Under the head of "Conservancy" the Forest Officers have continued their explorations of forests which were little known, and have collected valuable information regarding the forests of Nimar, Bijeeragogurh, Chanda, and Chutteesgurh. They have brought the business of demarcating "reserves" nearly to completion; they have done something towards keeping the annually recurring fires out of our more valuable forests; they have collected and sold, or stacked for sale, a large quantity of cut timber that was lying ownerless in the forests; they have felled timber sufficient for the various public departments; they have marked trees for next season's felling; and they have prepared a few thousand sleepers from different timbers, with a view to practical experiments as to the durability of each species.

Revenue in "unreserved" forests.

164. In respect of developing forest revenue, the following measures have been carried into effect or commenced. Unreserved forests have been divided into convenient lots, and have been leased to farmers; licenses to fell timber have been granted; arrangements for providing a perpetual supply of firewood and small timber to all the more populous tracts have been taken in hand; teak saplings have been thinned where they grew too close; and a sufficient supply of timber for farm purposes has been made available for the agricultural classes. Seeing that this was the first year in which the Civil Officers in reality assumed the full management of these unreserved forest tracts, it may perhaps be considered that they did well when they raised from this an entirely new source of public income,—a revenue of Rs. 1,07,000 (£10,700). The receipts from this source will, it is hoped, continue to increase largely. The first and main difficulty has been overcome, and the people have learnt to regard the unreserved forests as government property, from which the State is resolved to raise a fair proportion of revenue.

Nagpore firewood supply.

165. One measure of the year's forest administration perhaps deserves special mention, because it has an important bearing on the future of the cities of Kamptee and Nagpore and the surrounding plains. The population of this tract have been accustomed to draw their supplies of firewood, grass, small timber, Mhowa flower, &c., from the forests on the southern slopes of the Sautpoora Hills which bound the plain of Nagpore. The ever-increasing demand for these products was gradually exhausting the forests; and, moreover, the supply was drawn in a manner which, though convenient for the present race of timber dealers, was the worst possible for the future of the forests and of the populations dependent on them. An arrangement has now been made whereby this large forest, about 500 square miles in extent, has been divided into three parts, which are to be worked, so far as timber and firewood are concerned, alternately. Two divisions of the forest will

thus be recovering themselves, while the third is supplying all the wants of the people. For the present, the division nearest to Nagpore, which of late years has been much worked, is quite closed to timber and firewood cutters. These arrangements will, if adhered to, secure to the most populous part of these Provinces an unfailing supply of firewood and petty timber at fairly cheap rates.

Dhya cultivation restricted.

166. This chapter may be closed by a brief reference to *Dhya* cultivation. In a previous Report it was explained that the hill tribes had a practice of cutting the trees and burning the brushwood on a hill side, throwing seed on the land so cleared, and then, after reaping the crop, it was their custom to pass on next year to another site and make a fresh clearance. Not only was this practice injurious to forests, inasmuch as it destroyed fine trees, which were burnt where they fell, and were never used as timber, but it also prevented the people who practised it from adopting a settled mode of life or improved methods of husbandry. The evils of the system being so apparent, much attention has been given to its gradual eradication. As has been stated in a foregoing chapter, the improved excise system has indirectly done much towards improving the general status of the Gond and other hill tribes. Direct efforts have also been persistently made to confine *Dhya* cultivation within the narrowest limits possible. Under the forest rules it is illegal to cut a *Dhya* (as the phrase is) in Government forests without license from the Civil authorities; but it has not been found possible to change in a single year the habits of a whole race. Gradually, however, the reform is being effected. In one of our chief forest districts, Baitool, where much attention has been paid to this matter from the beginning, the practice of cutting *Dhyas* has been almost entirely abandoned. In the other forest districts also, something has been accomplished in many places, though the custom lingers on.

CHAPTER XII.

MISCELLANEOUS.

SECTION I.—AGRICULTURE AND COTTON.

Agri-Horticultural Society.

167. There is little to be added to previous descriptions of the Agri-Horticultural Society at Nagpore. The large garden in which its operations are conducted is under a trained European gardener. The propagation of indigenous and foreign fruit trees is carried on, and the supply to district public gardens and to local subscribers is sufficiently liberal. The Society's nurseries are fairly stocked with shrubs and forest trees, some of Himalayan and Australian growth. Many thousands of seedlings have been planted along station roads at Nagpore and elsewhere. The number of the Society's members ranged from 133 to 131, of whom 31 are natives. The finance is in proper order. The income of the year, including the grant-in-aid from Government of Rs. 1,200 per annum, was Rs. 9,926 (£992), and the expenditure Rs. 9,061 (£906); leaving a small working balance in hand.

Public gardens.

168. The public gardens at all the district head-quarter stations have been cared for during the year. Some of them are becoming worthy of being places of local resort. The operations carried on in each district in the interests of agriculture have been, for the first time, this year collated, for local publication. Such a record, besides being a mere landmark of progress, shows that while one District Officer succeeds in importing a set of improved agricultural implements, or a case of fruit trees direct from England; or another obtains a supply of pedigree wheat for experiment, or raises some samples of a new product, and so on—another has attempted next to nothing, or failed in what he attempted. Thus a healthy spirit of emulation may be gradually evoked.

COTTON.

The cotton sowings.

169. The season 1865-66 was not generally so favorable as the preceding, in respect of this important staple. In the first place, at the period of sowing, when the extent of the cultivation is determined by the demand for cotton, prices in England had fallen, and there was a panic in the Bombay market. Local dealers hesitated to make

advances to the cultivator. The uncertainty operated towards curtailment of the cultivation to the extent of about 15 per cent. all round. In the second place, the rains fell irregularly. In June, it came down in heavy showers immediately after the sowings, and deluged the young plants. Then in July, there was almost a drought when moisture was most needed.

Area under crop.

170. The area under cotton cultivation, compared with the previous season, may be thus shown:—

	1864-65. *Acres.*	1865-66. *Acres.*
In the Nerbudda Valley north of the Sautpoora Range	285,111	229,652
In the Nagpore Country south of the Range.	330,755	289,189
In the Chutteesgurh Country, the Mahanuddy and Godavery Valleys.	74,332	68,557
TOTAL ...	690,198	587,398

The season's out-turn.

171. The average yield of cleaned cotton was, after full examination of the subject, accepted at from 50 to 60lbs. per acre in the Wurdah Valley, and at from 40 to 45lbs. per acre for other parts of the country. At something below these rates the aggregate out-turn of the season would be about 30 million lbs., or about 5½ million lbs. less than last year. Then there were nearly 6 million lbs. imported into the country for re-export with the stamp of our markets. Of the aggregate, there were 29¼ million lbs. actually registered as exports from the Central Provinces, that is, about two million lbs. in excess of the previous year, notwithstanding the fall in prices.

Government experiments with foreign seed.

172. Experiments in the cultivation of New Orleans cotton in the Wurdah District were conducted under the supervision of a European Officer specially selected for the work. The season's experiments were limited to five fields in different parts of the district, of 7 and 10 acres each. On the 47 acres thus sown the yield of seed cotton was 5,549lbs., or 118lbs. per acre, which on being cleaned gives a return of 1,497lbs. cotton, or 32lbs. per acre, and 4,052lbs. of seed. At the current prices of indigenous varieties, the produce would be valued at Rs. 764 for the cotton and Rs. 145 for the seed, or altogether Rs. 909. Now the cost of the experiments, including rent of land, cost of ploughing and sowing, of manuring and weeding, of watching, picking, and ginning, amounted to Rs. 425. A clear profit was thus obtained of 114 per cent. on outlay.

Private experiments.

173. In connection with the experiment under Government supervision, some New Orleans seed was distributed to private landholders in the Wurdah District who were willing to give the seed a trial; but, whether from carelessness or prejudice these experiments failed, except at two

places, which may be briefly described. At Wurnaira the landholder sowed 3 acres, 1¼ roods, with 48lbs. of seed. The produce was 1,984lbs. seed cotton, which on being ginned yielded 536lbs. clean cotton, or 162lbs. per acre. At Bairool, the other place, the landholder sowed 5 acres with 50lbs. of seed, which yielded 652lbs. seed cotton, or 342lbs. clean cotton, equal to 68lbs. per acre. The expenditure per acre in these private fields, if taken at the rate incurred in the fields under direct Government supervision, though it was probably much less, would leave the profit for the Wurnaira field of 811 per cent., and for the Bairool field 283 per cent. on the outlay. The extraordinary result in the Wurnaira field may be partly accounted for by the fact that the experiment was conducted in garden land richly manured. The landholder is an experienced agriculturist, who takes an active interest in the question of cotton supply. The experiments are being continued in the current year; and 671lbs. of seed now acclimatized in the district have been distributed to landholders, who are beginning to have more confidence in the foreign seed. Similar experiments in the Chanda District were conducted with acclimatized New Orleans cotton seed. Fourteen acres were sown with this seed, at 10lbs. of seed per acre, about the middle of July. The plants came up well, and about the middle of September, when flowering began, they were strong, bushy shrubs of from 2½ to 4 feet high. Bols commenced forming early in October. The picking of cotton continued till March 1866, when the average out-turn of seed cotton was ascertained at 274lbs. per acre, and after ginning of 70lbs. per acre. The expenses of all kinds amounted to Rs. 164-8-0. At market rates, the total yield was worth Rs. 436 for the cleaned cotton and Rs. 74 for the seed, or altogether Rs. 510; which gives a profit of Rs. 346 per cent. on the outlay, or Rs. 24-8-0 per acre sown.

Preparation of the staple for export.

174. Improved ginning and pressing machinery has been set up, and the four principal cotton yards in the cotton district have been paved with stone to prevent the cotton becoming soiled during the process of weighing and packing. Cotton warehouses have been built by the dealers at these yards, and generally there is more attention paid to the requirements of the English market than before.

Cotton ginning machinery.

175. At the Nagpore Exhibition (1865) there were set up and worked by a 5-horse power steam engine a self-feeding cotton gin by Messrs. Platt Brothers, and a cotton saw-gin. There were also a few cotton gins worked by hand power. The out-turn of the Platt's gin, just mentioned, was watched by crowds of natives daily with much interest. It was the first time that many of them had ever seen machinery in play under the motive power of steam. To them it was a real novelty to mark the every-day operation of cotton cleaning, familiar as the slow work of the village house-wife, performed with a wonderful rapidity and completeness by a seemingly complicated machine connected with a fire engine,

whose power they could see, but could not understand. A few intelligent natives were appointed to explain the working of the machinery to the visitors—many of them dealers from the cotton-growing districts.

Section II.—Arboriculture.

Arboriculture during the year.

176. The operations under this head up to the close of last year, as conducted by the Civil authorities, may be summarized as follows:—

At all eligible spots in the vicinity of district and sub-divisional stations, and along main lines of road, where water is easily obtainable from streams and wells, nurseries have been established under proper supervision. Of these, there are altogether 252, containing at the beginning of the year 144,722 plants and seedlings. From this stock 70,734 trees were planted out during the year, leaving at its close, inclusive of plants newly raised, 127,789. The number of miles of avenue planted out during the year was 110½, there being planted out in previous years and under care 288½ miles. Of groves, at intervals of some few miles along the roads, there were 218 established in previous years and 54 newly formed during the year. Then there are 113 miles of avenues and 194 groves under the care of landholders, who have undertaken the charge on condition they shall enjoy the fruit of the trees. Only in the Hoshungabad District was a money equivalent accepted by the landholders, Rs. 628 having been paid for the care and keep of 25½ miles of avenue and 3 groves. The total expenditure from local funds in all districts on account of the above operations was Rs. 26,186 (£2,618).

Trees on high roads.

177. The tree-planting operations conducted by the Public Works Department may be thus stated. In the 10 established nurseries there were 55,276 plants at the beginning of the year and 36,065 at its close. From these, 21,339 trees were planted out on 13 miles of road and in 14 groves during the year. The expenditure in watching and tending amounted to Rs. 16,379 (£1,637).

178. The total expenditure on arboriculture during the year may be thus given:—

By the Civil Authorities	Rs.	26,186	(£2,618)
By the Public Works Department	„	16,379	(„ 1,637)
Total ...	Rs.	42,565	(£4,256).

SECTION III.—WASTE LANDS.

Demarcation of Government waste lands.

179. The area and extent of the waste lands in these Provinces, at the absolute disposal of Government for sale under the waste land sale rules, have been generally described in my previous Reports. A marked advance has been made during the year in the survey and demarcation into plots of these lands in most districts; and the work is steadily progressing, *pari passu*, with the preparation of registers, giving all details of soil, of water supply, of natural products, of climate and rain-fall; of the proximity to marts and high roads; and of other practical matters. These registers are published in the local Gazette, in parts, as fast as they are completed.

Sales in fee simple.

180. The publicity given to these measures have resulted in considerable sales being effected during the year under report. For instance, up to the close of 1864-65 the total area sold was 32,047 acres, whilst in 1865-66 it amounted to 18,939 acres. The aggregate sales thus amount to 50,986 acres; the price realized being Rs. 92,970 (£9,297), or Rs. 1-13-2 (3*s.* 8*d.*) per acre. Excluding one sale in Belaspore, of 16,000 acres, sanctioned under special considerations at 4 annas an acre, on account of the peculiar insalubrity of the neighbourhood, the average price realized on all the sales was Rs. 2-8-8 (5*s.* 1*d.*) per acre, or a little above the maximum upset price in the most cultivated districts in these Provinces. Moreover, since the close of 1865-66 there have been no less than 125,799 acres advertised for auction sale, consequent on applications received. The great majority of the applicants and purchasers are natives of these Provinces.

Clearance leases.

181. It being found that many Natives, who would not purchase under the rules, would yet be desirous of taking leases of small quantites of waste, it was decided to offer further facilities for this object tending to the reclaiming of the waste bit by bit, and thus to the gradual increase of the land revenue. Accordingly during the year rules have been promulgated for the grant of waste lands on clearance leases, on the following terms:—

(1). The leaseholder shall be allowed a rent-free tenure of three years from the date of the grant coming into operation.

(2). The minimum area to be granted shall be 100 acres.

(3). On expiry of the terms of rent-free tenure, the grantee shall pay 2 annas per acre per annum on the whole grant for the next 7 years, and a rent of 4 annas per acre during the next 10 years.

(4). From the beginning of the 21st year the grant shall be liable to assessment, at the same rate and on the same terms as the surrounding lands.

(5). The lessee shall engage, as a condition of his lease, to break up 6 per cent. of the area of his grant every three years, until the cultivated portion reached 30 per cent. on the whole area of the grant; and when the lessee shall have brought 40 per cent. of the area of his grant under cultivation, he shall become proprietor thereof.

(6). In any case where a clearance grant faces, or is bounded by a road, river, or canal, the face of the grant opposite such river, road, or canal shall not be more than one-half the length of the grant perpendicular to such road, river, or canal.

Section IV.—Mineral Resources.

Coal fields in the Pench Valley.

182. The coal fields in the Pench Valley, in the vicinity of the Burkoee seam in the Chindwara District, mentioned in my last Report, have during the year been examined and reported on by Mr. Blandford, of the Geological Survey of India. Including Burkoee, there are eleven different places at which coal has been found, *viz* :—

	Thickness of seam.		*Thickness of good coal in seam.*		*Average angle of dip.*
	ft.	in.	ft.	in.	Degrees.
1. At Sirgoree.....above	4	9	above 4	9	5
2. Do.	3	0	3	0	5
3. Chenda..... 15		6	12	3	3
4. Rawunwara.....	7	0	3	4	4
5. Do.	..		above 3	0	10
6. Parapia.....	..		„ 5	0	..
7. Bhandaria.....15		2	7	3	10
8. Booturia..... ...above	7	8	above 5	10	5
9. Burkoee.....	8	6	about 6	0	3
10. Gogri.....	6	0	5	3	about 5
11. Hurrye.....	not yet sufficiently explored.				

Mr. Blandford believes that many other workable seams still remain undiscovered in this neighbourhood. Those noticed above appear, in most instances, to be favorable to mining enterprize. The angle of dip is everywhere very small, and the quality and thickness of most of the seams are supposed to be constant, at all events over considerable areas. The tests applied establish the character of the coal as equal to that of Raneegunj, with which the East Indian Railway is worked for some

hundreds of miles. The following analysis furnished by Mr. Blandford may prove interesting :—

	Percentage of fuel carbon.	*Percentage of volatile matter.*	*Percentage of ash.*
Chenda seam ..	61·	16·	23·
Burkoee seam..	50·3	26·	23·7
Booturia ..	49·3	26·5	24·2
Sirgoree ..	61·6	28·	10·4
Bhandaria ..	54·4	29·6	16·

in the Towa Valley,

183. The coal fields in the Towa Valley in the Baitool District have also been reported on during the year by the same Officer; and more than one of the seams have been declared to afford hope of yielding a supply of good coal.

in the Nerbudda Valley,

184. The Mohpanee coal mines are being worked by the Nerbudda Coal and Iron Company with success. The license granting this Company the right to work the mines for 50 years, from the 1st January 1861, has been executed during the year, and a copy has been placed in the hands of the local revenue authorities for the carrying out of its provisions.

in the Chanda District.

185. A new discovery of coal has been made during the year in the Chanda District; but, so far as the samples have been tested, the coal is not supposed to be of much value. Further experiments may, however, yet bring out a different result.

Iron works.

186. As mentioned in my last Report it was decided to advertise the Burwai iron works in Nimar for sale at an upset price. This was done, but no offers were received. The works will now go with the territory north of the Nerbudda about being transferred to His Highness the Maharajah Holkar, a fair valuation being fixed thereon.

Section V.—Survey.

Area professionally surveyed.

187. During the year under review there have been four parties of the Revenue Survey and two of the Topographical Survey, in all six parties, at work in these Provinces. A party of the Geological Survey of India has also entered on the survey of the southern slopes of the Sautpoora Hills. The result of these operations may be abstracted thus :—

	Square miles surveyed.
By Professional Revenue Survey	4,509
By Topographical Survey	3,969
Total ...	8,478

188. In my last Report was stated the amount of work done by the Revenue and Topographical Surveys. Adding to that the area surveyed and mapped during the year under report, the account will stand thus :—

	Square miles surveyed.
By Professional Revenue Survey	30,509
By Topographical Survey	14,969
TOTAL ...	45,478

189. In general terms, it may be said that a portion of the plateau of Chutteesgurh, the Sautpoora hill districts, the Trans-Wyne Gunga country (that is east of the river), and the Nimar District, are the only parts of these Provinces remaining to be surveyed. The survey of these tracts will be soon done, say within two years, except those of the Sautpoora country, which may occupy a longer time.

SECTION VI.—FAIRS.

Importance of Fairs.

190. There is little to be added to what has been said in my previous Reports on the subject of Fairs. They continue to present a marked feature in the commercial affairs of the people. But those held heretofore in the Wurdah, Nagpore, and Nimar Districts, in the immediate neighbourhood of the Railway, will probably diminish in importance as the established markets become better able to lay in and maintain large stocks.

Amount of merchandize sold.

191. There were 77 Fairs held in different parts of these Provinces during the year; and from the statistics collected on the spot, it is estimated that the value of property brought for sale was Rs. 90,19,648 (£901,965), of which Rs. 60,73,055 (£607,305) worth were sold. These sales comprised English piece-goods and other European articles worth Rs. 8,08,496 (£80,849); country manufactured articles worth Rs. 26,03,318 (£260,332); horses and ponies Rs. 15,532 (£1,553), cattle and sheep Rs. 11,96,928 (£119,693); other miscellaneous articles Rs. 14,48,781 (£144,878). The aggregate number of persons attending all these Fairs is estimated at 1,667,934.

The Chanda Fair.

192. At one Fair in the Chanda District there were 145,010 persons. The cattle sales alone amounted to about 4½ lakhs of rupees (£45,000). The district is noted for its manufacture of country carts, of which there were sold 7,434, valued at Rs. 3,38,700.

SECTION VII.—TRADE STATISTICS.

Registering of the trade.

193. The arrangements for registering the exterior and interior trade of the country remain as described in previous Reports. The plan is now understood by the Officers and establishments, and the returns are gaining in reliability. Even with respect to European merchandize, the only item regarding which there was at first some uncertainty as to value, arrangements have been entered into with traders for obtaining accurate registration, without interfering with the current of traffic. Thus, though error may still exist, on the whole the returns may be said to present an approach to a fair representation of the actual trade between the Central Provinces and the countries beyond, and between the three circles into which the Central Provinces have been geographically divided for the purposes of these statistics.

General aspect of the year's trade.

194. As regards the trade of the Central Provinces with other Provinces during the year 1865-66, the returns show on the whole some diminution in the exportation of wheat, which can be well accounted for, by the crops not having been good either in the eastern districts or in the Wurdah Valley. The rice crop was generally fair everywhere; but there was no increase in exportation, the balance which might otherwise have been exported being probably held in reserve. On the other hand, the importation of inferior edible grains increased. Some decrease in the exports, and increase of imports, of articles of food might be expected, in order to adjust the supplies required by the people in consequence of the chequered character of the harvests. There was again an increase in the exportation of cotton, which, if taken in reference to the general state of the market, is somewhat remarkable. It is doubtful whether this shows really a healthy trade, inasmuch as hundreds of tons of cotton from Bundlecund and Berar came here in order to be mixed with our produce, or to go down to Bombay with the Hingunghat brand. The export of country-made cloth increased considerably, which seems to be satisfactory. There was a small increase in the exportation of oilseeds. The imports of European goods, including piece-goods and miscellaneous articles, increased,—partly owing, no doubt, to the Nagpore Exhibition. The importation of salt and of hardware also increased; while of sugar it remained stationary, but apparently firm.

Total exterior trade.

195. The totals of the exterior export and import trade of all kinds, that is the trade of the Central Provinces with other Provinces, may be thus shown :—

	Tons.	*Rs.*	£.
Imports	76,518	2,78,64,642	2,786,464
Exports	62,497	3,05,05,817	3,050,581
TOTAL ...	139,015	5,83,70,459	5,837,045

In these aggregates are included stores for Government departments and for the Railways.

196. The above totals may be sub-divided into—

			Tons.	Rs.	£.
West ..	Trade with Bombay, Berar, &c.	Imports	39,214	1,61,04,872	1,610,487
		Exports	34,259	2,30,70,792	2,307,079
		Total	73,473	3,91,75,664	3,917,566
North ..	Trade with Northern India and Calcutta.	Imports	25,548	91,51,846	915,184
		Exports	22,108	62,52,042	625,204
		Total	47,656	1,54,03,888	1,540,388
South ..	Trade with Madras and Hyderabad (Deccan.)	Imports	2,822	12,00,948	120,095
		Exports	707	2,45,474	24,547
		Total	3,529	14,46,422	144,642
East ..	Trade with East Coast Districts and south-west Bengal.	Imports	8,934	14,06,976	140,697
		Exports	5,423	9,37,509	93,751
		Total	14,357	23,44,485	234,448

It may be noted, in respect of the above headings, that our trade with Bombay in salt and European goods and cotton is increasing; and that our trade with Berar in articles of food has received a great impulse during the year,—the Nagpore country sending wheat to Berar, and Berar sending millet in return.

Principal articles of trade.

197. The principal articles entering into the exterior traffic of the year, may be thus shown:—

	Imports.		Exports.	
	Maunds.	Rs.	Maunds.	Rs.
Cotton	73,176	21,20,409	447,938	1,30,83,582
Sugar	174,661	20,92,373	95,293	13,69,854
Salt	834,507	44,02,804	61,579	4,19,334
Grain	335,407	9,26,715	671,360	20,18,001
Oilseed	57,447	2,25,602	23,199	78,237
Metals and Hardware	122,802	42,25,914	45,421	23,67,978
English piece-goods.	29,070	34,95,123	2,927	4,66,006
Miscellaneous European goods ..	67,027	25,05,936	12,566	8,55,457
Country cloth ..	10,032	8,20,130	55,052	57,75,485
Silk and silk Cocoons.	972	5,15,091	452	1,00,125
Horses, Cattle, and Sheep	..	18,74,375	..	5,65,381
Cocoanuts	78,604	5,54,062	2,441	30,599

198. The trade of the Central Provinces for the past and previous years, after excluding the quantity and value of Railway material and Government stores, may be compared thus:—

		Tons.	*Rs.*	£.
1864-5...	Imports ..	56,874	2,00,63,255	2,006,325
	Exports ..	77,771	2,37,99,264	2,379,926
	Total ..	134,645	4,38,62,519	4,386,251
1865-6...	Imports ..	74,413	2,55,36,250	2,553,625
	Exports ..	61,917	2,96,61,412	2,966,141
	Total ..	136,330	5,51,97,662	5,519,766

Thus there is shown a slight increase in quantity, and a large increase of valuation. The latter may be partly accounted for by the rise of prices.

199. In the aggregate, it will be seen that the exports exceed the imports by about 41¼ lakhs (£412,500), or one-twelfth, leaving that amount to be imported as bullion to balance the trade.

The interior trade of the country.

200. In the interior trade of the country, that is between the several circles into which these Provinces have been sub-divided for the purposes of this registration, there have been decided fluctuations and changes during the year. The supplies of grain, rice, and corn, drawn by Nagpore from the eastern districts (Chutteesgurh) have been mentioned in previous Reports as being so abundant heretofore. But this year they fell off by nearly one-half, owing partly to the deficiencies in the harvests of the last two years, and partly to the fact of Chutteesgurh having exported largely towards Bengal, in consequence of distress in some districts there. To compensate for this, Nagpore has this year drawn its supplies of wheat from the Nerbudda country around Jubbulpore (causing prices to rise there), and its supplies of rice from the plains and vallies at the foot of the Sautpoora Hills.

Section VIII.—Hospitals and Dispensaries.

Number of Dispensaries.

201. In last year's Report it was shown that the number of Dispensaries existing was 35, including 18 Central and 17 Branch Dispensaries. During the year under report 8 new Branch Dispensaries were established, making the total number 43. This number will be still further increased in the current year, as several townships have subscribed funds for Dispensary buildings, and have guaranteed the proper quota of local expenditure for maintainance thereof. Indeed, in

respect to resources and popular support, these institutions might be indefinitely multiplied. The real obstacle is the scarcity of Native Doctors. Young men are now being sent from Nagpore to Calcutta for medical training.

Dispensary buildings.

202. Attention has been given during the year to the improvement of existing Dispensary buildings. Those on the railway lines have had wards added for European patients, and provision has everywhere been made for separate female wards. Improved standard plans, in a tolerably good architectural style, for all future Dispensaries have been sanctioned.

Increase in number of patients.

203. The number of patients treated at all the Dispensaries was 103,983, of whom 79,782 were males and 24,201 females. The progressive increase in the number treated annually during the last few years will be seen from the following figures:—

	1862.	1863.	1864.	1865.
Male patients	33,695	44,497	59,080	79,782
Female do.	8,410	13,009	16,882	24,201
	42,105	57,506	75,962	103,983

Cost of these institutions.

204. With the increase in the number of patients treated and Dispensaries established, the expenditure, compared with the past year, has risen from Rs. 41,958 to Rs. 49.976. Excluding the floating balance in hand and the invested capital at the beginning of the year, the total income of the Dispensaries for 1865 was Rs. 49,797, out of which Rs. 33,345, or about 66 per cent., were contributed from Imperial funds.

Vaccination.

205. In my last Report I stated that a Superintendent of Vaccination had been appointed and had entered on his duties. The returns for the year 1865-66 show that 4,757 persons were vaccinated. The operation was successful in 2,666 cases, doubtful in 86, failed in 1,476 cases, and the result was not ascertained in 529. There were 28 cases of re-vaccination, of which 12 only were successful. According to the return furnished, the failures were greatest in the months of September and October, when they were 54 and 81 per cent., respectively, compared with from 25 to 30 per cent. in the other ten months of the year. The above numbers may seem small; but the operations have been confined to certain localities which could really be supervised by a European medical officer. No useful comparison can be instituted with last year's results, as operations in that year did not commence till December 1864. In the interior the people still show, occasionally, reluctance to submit their children to the operation, though effort has been made to explain away prejudice. Doctor Grylls, the Superintendent of Vaccine, is careful not to force the operations on them. This Officer, in his annual Report, brings to notice the alarming

fact that throughout the tracts he has traversed this year, he has seldom found a child over 5 years of age that had not had small-pox. Operations will be persevered in during the current year within the limited area originally contemplated.

Lunatic Asylums.

206. The Lunatic Asylum at Nagpore for male and female patients was in full working order during the year. The admissions were 30: 18 for mania, and 12 for dementia; making, with the number remaining from last year, 60. The average cost per head on all accounts was Rs. 82 in the year. Healthy occupation, in the shape of petty manufactures, has been introduced during the year, and a part of the building has been fitted up as a workshed. The Jubbulpore Lunatic Asylum was opened at the beginning of the year. The admissions were 22; the cost per head per annum amounted to Rs. 40.

Section IX.—Public Health and Sanitary Improvement.

Public health during the year.

207. In my last Report it was stated that 1864-65 was an unhealthy year, inasmuch as epidemic cholera visited every one of our districts in a more or less severe form, while certain endemic fevers in Chutteesgurh and the Wyne Gunga Valley carried off large numbers. But since cholera finally disappeared in September 1865, it has not again shown itself in an epidemic shape; the usual fevers also have been of a milder type than in former years. It is a subject for thankfulness that, during this the second year in which close attention has been paid to sanitary matters, the public health should have been really so good. This can hardly be much more than a happy coincidence; for a year's sanitation, however thorough, could make little impression on the general state of the country. Still the circumstance will have a good effect on the minds of a comparatively ignorant and unreasoning people, and will enlist many influential natives in the cause of public health.

Sanitation in towns.

208. The sanitary Sub-Committees of the Municipalities in our towns have continued their efforts during the year. In almost every town public latrines of some sort have been established; and a regularly paid conservancy establishment is told off to keep the streets clean, to occasionally inspect private enclosures, and to enforce ordinary sanitary laws. In the largest towns there is generally an European official at the head of such establishments.

and in villages.

209. Within the year, too, an actual commencement in village conservancy has been made throughout the whole country. This is really a difficult matter, owing to the vast number of villages, and the equally vast area over which they are spread. A separate conservancy staff could not be organized, and

indeed is not required in each village; but the importance of the subject has been constantly kept before the eyes of landholders and their servants. A copy of the paper of sanitary rules and suggestions, adverted to in my last Report, has been placed in the hands of almost every landholder. English and Native administrative Officers of all grades have made it their business to inspect a number of villages in their districts, with special reference to sanitary arrangements. Landholders have been warned of their shortcomings, and reminded of their responsibilities; and, on the whole, diminution has been effected in the insalubrious conditions which surround the rural habitations. This much has been done probably in all the districts. But in some districts the results are already perceptible. In such districts the villages will be found to be almost cleanly,—separate latrines having been established; dunghills having been removed to a distance from the habitations; rubbish, refuse, and offal being carted away; and the lanes and alleys being swept. In some districts, too, the practice of whitewashing and plastering the cottages, which before existed partially, has been rendered almost universal. This process has been carried on inside as well as outside, and must greatly conduce to the health of the inhabitants. Much of this improvement is due to the exertions of the Civil authorities; but even this much could not be effected, without the co-operation of the people themselves.

Supply of pure drinking water.

210. One special object which the "Village Conservancy Rules," above referred to, have in view, is the provision of good drinking water. Some of the rules point out the measures which should be taken to keep pure the sources from which the water for the people to drink is drawn. And, all over the country, the tanks used for drinking purposes are subjected to some sort of sanitary control. But in the eastern, or Chutteesgurh Districts, as stated in my last Report, there are actually no sources from which good wholesome drinking water can be obtained in the hot season. The enquiries consequent on the frequent outburst of sickness, disclosed the abiding existence of such evil in the tank water, as must but too surely sap away the health of the rustic population. For these evils, the supply of well water appeared to be the best, if not the only, practical remedy. Inducements were, therefore, specially held out to landholders who would sink wells in their villages. A concession of sixty acres of culturable land free of revenue for every well thus sunk was offered, and, whenever necessary, money advances from the Treasury, repayable by instalments, were allowed. These efforts had not been without result, for a recent report shows that during the last five months the owners of 557 villages have begun to sink wells for drinking water. By the end of last April, 19 of these wells were wholly, and 161 partially, completed. In 42 cases money advances, as above described, were made. On the roadsides, too, in this quarter some 30 wells have been constructed at the public expense. Much perseverance on the part of the local authorities will be demanded, for in

many parts of Chutteesgurh the ground is not favorable for excavation of wells; and these works, vitally important as they are, will not always be accomplished without difficulty.

Prohibition of certain annual gatherings.

211. In my last Report it was related how measures had been taken to stop certain annual religious gatherings, which, occurring at a critical time of the year, frequently became *foci*, from which epidemic disease was carried far and wide. Our immunity from cholera during the present year, may be partially attributable to those measures. Indeed, the occurrence of cholera among a comparatively small number of travellers to the shrine of Juggernath on the Eastern Coast, who took a circuitous route by Mundla, Sohagpore, and the northern parts of Belaspore, sufficiently indicates what would have happened if the full tide of pilgrims had been allowed to pass through the plains of Chutteesgurh. During the year under report the gathering at Bhudrachellum on the Godavery has been forbidden. And in the eastern districts, it has been ordered that no Fairs shall be held after the 1st of March. The people, so far as can be ascertained, do not seem at all to object to the regulation and control, on sanitary grounds, of the times and seasons when vast religious gatherings can safely be held. Indeed many Natives have been heard to acknowledge the necessity of trying such measures whereby the destruction of human life may be averted.

Collection of vital statistics.

212. The arrangements for the registering deaths and causes of death have not been sufficiently successful to enable me to offer any reliable statistics of this description. The establishment of such registration must be the work of some little time.

Section X.—Improvement in the breed of horned Cattle, Horses, and Sheep.

Bulls for breeding.

213. In the last Report the number of bulls imported from the Hissar Government farm, and from Nellore in the Madras Presidency, was stated. They have now been distributed among the several districts, and herded with the cows of the larger cattle dealers. In some districts, where the breed of cattle is very small, the Deputy Commissioners have also imported some large sized cows. Some years must elapse before any marked result can be looked for.

Sheep breeding.

214. A commencement has been made with the sheep farm at Nagpore, and a few superior rams are shortly expected from Lahore. The sheep farms at Saugor and Dumoh have not made any particular progress during the year; the flocks, too, were attacked by the foot-rot. At Saugor a few

rams from Bikaneer are about to be introduced, and at Dumoh the farm is being shifted to a more healthy locality. At Jubbulpore the cash advances made to the shepherds for the improvement of their farms, were almost all repaid as they became due; but, judging from the still large imports of sheep from Central India, no very sensible result has been attained. The eastern districts of Chutteesgurh continue largely to supply the markets of Nagpore, though sheep breeding is carried on to some extent in the districts of the Nagpore country.

Government Stallions.

215. The ten stallions sanctioned for these Provinces have now all been purchased, and are kept at selected stations. The number of mares served up to the end of last year was about sixty. This number appears to be small even for a beginning.

Section XI.—Elephant Catching.

Capture of wild elephants.

216. During the year under report considerable success has attended the operations of the Khedda (or elephant catching) establishment employed on our eastern frontier. Thirty elephants, of all sizes, have been caught. Four of these have died, leaving twenty-six, of which the value is reckoned at Rs. 39,000 (£3,900). The whole expenditure of the Superintendent of the Khedda and his staff amounted to Rs. 30,000 (£3,000) during the year 1865-66. Some of the elephants being undersized, were sold at the Nagpore Exhibition during December 1865, and fetched on the average Rs. 1,400 (£140). These young animals are much prized by Native gentlemen.

217. These results are encouraging, inasmuch as the difficulties encountered were severe. The Superintendent of the Khedda and his staff were unacquainted with the country. The skilled elephant hunters were natives of Eastern Bengal, and the climate of this part of India did not agree with them. Some of the most experienced men were obliged by illness to depart, and it was impossible adequately to supply their places with men on the spot. The Superintendent, Mr. R. D. Nuthall, displayed a degree of courage, endurance, and skill, to which the success (whatever it may be) is mainly due. It is supposed that there are some three hundred elephants in the forests of that quarter, and that about fifty calves are reared annually. If this estimate be correct, there would seem to be yet several years' work for the Khedda establishment.

CHAPTER XIII.

NAGPORE EXHIBITION.

Exhibition at Nagpore.

213. One of the most interesting events of the year to which this Report has reference, was the Nagpore Exhibition of December 1865. With the sanction of the Supreme Government, arrangements for holding at Nagpore an Exhibition of products and manufactures were begun in March 1865. Funds were collected, amounting in all to more than a lakh of rupees (£10,000), out of which Rs. 20,000 (£2,000) were given from the public revenues; a site was chosen; and contributions were asked for. The period from April to December was spent in preparing the Exhibition grounds and buildings; in collecting, despatching, and arranging contributions. On the 26th December, the Exhibition was opened in the buildings of the Nagpore terminal station, which had been lent for the purpose by the Railway Contractors, Messrs. Lee, Watson, and Aiton.

Visitors on that occasion.

219. The throng of visitors who came from all parts of the Central Provinces and from adjacent countries was considerable. Nearly all the European Officers connected with this Administration attended with parties of Native visitors from their respective districts. Most of the Chieftains and great landholders of the Central Provinces presented themselves with their trains of followers. There were European visitors also from Calcutta and from Bombay. Some of the Presidency firms which contributed articles to the Exhibition sent representatives. From the neighbouring province of Berar, in the Nizam's dominions, came many European and Native visitors. Altogether, besides the population of Nagpore and its environs, some 30,000 people flocked to see the Exhibition. The majority of these visitors encamped in various open spaces allotted to them near the Exhibition buildings. The many-coloured camps of the Chiefs, with their elephants, their horses, and their paraphernalia of all kinds, formed one of the sights of the occasion.

Arrangement of the Exhibition.

220. A separate Report, with a selection of papers regarding the Exhibition and the products and manufactures displayed there, has been submitted to the Supreme Government. I will only advert here briefly to the arrangement of the contributions and to a few of the most striking articles in each branch. There were five Departments:—

I.—Livestock.
II.—Machinery and Implements.
III.—Raw Produce.
IV.—Forest and Mineral Products of India.
V.—Manufactures and Fine Arts.

Livestock.

221. The livestock was shown in the open air; the sheep and cattle were in pens; the horses in stables; the poultry in coops; and the elephants were tethered in a separate corner of the Exhibition grounds. The elephants captured* in the Belaspore forests were of good form and breed, and they attracted much attention. The cattle show, though limited in its range, was good in some respects. The finest animals, were the bulls from Nellore, from Mysore, and from Hissar, which had been recently bought by local Committees to cross with the cows of the country. But the chief interest lay in the numerous and varied specimens of Nagpore cattle, the best of which were very little behind the Mysore bulls in excellence. A smaller and more active breed, the Nagpore cattle are for light and rapid draught, and perhaps also for some kinds of plough work, not easily surpassed by any Indian bovine breed. The buffaloes were not remarkable either for number or excellence. The show of sheep was poor. The Central Provinces generally possess extensive pasturages: but the best sheep walks are at long distances from Nagpore. In the territory adjoining the Godavery River, and in some parts of the Nerbudda country, good sheep are to be found, and this branch of livestock might have been better represented on this occasion than it was. The show of horses was indifferent. Altogether there were hardly twenty animals; and only one district, Nursingpore, sent a good country-bred brood mare. The poultry show was meagre.

* See Chapter XII., Section XI. of this Report.

On the whole, the show of livestock was somewhat poor, redeemed from mediocrity by a few bright exceptions only. The contributions to this department of the Exhibition all belonged to residents in the Central Provinces. The obstacles in the way of sending livestock from other distant Provinces are obvious.

Machinery and implements.

222. Owing to the enterprise and good-will of a few Bombay and Calcutta firms, the department of machinery and implements was most interesting. It formed a greater attraction to Native visitors than any other branch. The models and some of the machines were shown under sheds constructed for the purpose, while the larger and less perishable articles were in the open space around the main machinery shed. There was a steam-engine constantly at work turning a Platt's cotton gin, and also specimens of the newest style of cotton Presses. The machine for clipping and punching iron; the pumps for forcing up water, worked by European soldiers; the agricultural machinery; the implements for cutting and chopping grass and stalks of all kinds; the machines for winnowing, for threshing, for grinding, for sowing, worked by bullock and hand power,—were watched with careful interest by Natives of all classes, and especially by the landholders and farmer classes. The fine set of agricultural machines sent out by the Secretary of State drew crowds of attentive and in-

telligent visitors. There was a throng of spectators at the ploughing matches with English against Native ploughs. It was not possible to exhibit steam ploughs or steam cultivators, as such very bulky things could never be conveyed over the country roads.

On the whole, the show of machinery must be regarded as good, when the difficulties in conveyance of such ponderous masses across the hills, ravines, and rivers of Central India to Nagpore, be considered.

Raw produce.

223. In the department of raw produce, the collection of samples of rice, wheat, oilseeds, and pulses was very varied and extensive. There were more than two hundred and fifty varieties of rice, and some really excellent samples of wheat. The show of tubers and of sugarcanes was not good. There were two good assortments of the many Indian products used for European or Native materia medica. The samples of cotton were, some of them, excellent. The best of all was the acclimatized New Orleans, grown in Berar by the Reverend J. Davidson. Of the indigenous cottons, those from Hingunghat were the best. Some of those which came from Dharwar were of excellent quality. There were a few interesting specimens of Sea island, Egyptian, and China cotton. The "tussah" silk was good; the wild silkworm cocoons from which this silk is made are largely produced in the eastern forests, especially in those of the Sumbulpore territory. The "tussah" was exhibited in cocoons, in reeled silk, in spun silk, and in woven pieces. A great and varied assortment of fibres made from wild plants, creepers, and grasses, were shown. Another valuable product of the forest was illustrated by the stick lacs and shell lacs received from several places to the east, and especially from the factory of Messrs. Warwick, at Jubbulpore.

Forest and mineral products.

224. In the hall devoted to articles coming under the category of "Forest and Mineral products," the Government Forest Department set up a trophy, consisting of specimens of the useful woods and timbers of these Provinces. The most prized species were Teak (*tectona grandis*), Ebony (*diospuros malanoxylon*), Satinwood (*chloroxylon suietenia*), Saj (*pentaptera tomentosa*), Sal (*vatica*, or *shorea robusta*), Toon, or Indian mahogany (*cedrela toona*). Also the tapering bamboos, locally called "Kuttung," or thorny, 90 feet in height, sent from Bhundara, were characteristic of the forests which clothe the southern slopes of the Sautpoora Hills. Of the minerals exhibited, the most important was coal. From six districts situated in different parts of these Provinces, specimens of coal were sent. Only two of these fields, the Mohpanee coal seam near the Nerbudda, and the Chindwara coal seam in the Pench Valley, 80 miles from Nagpore, have yet been regularly worked. Both these coals have answered well in locomotive steam engines. The other coals have not yet been worked or tried. Out of the eighteen districts which compose the Central Provinces, fifteen were able to send samples of iron-ore from their own rocks and hills. In one district, Chanda, iron was sent from the same valley, and indeed from some

tracts which also supplied coal. All these iron-ores have been worked for generations after the Native method. At one place only, Burwai, in the Nimar District, has iron-ore been smelted after the most approved European methods. The building stones displayed on this occasion comprised blue and red granites; black, white, and veined marbles; blue and black basalt; oolites; red, yellow, streaked, and white sandstones; flagstones and slabs of sandstone; limestones of many kinds. Among other useful mineral products were talc, manganese, ochres, and coloured earths. On the whole, the show in this department, which consisted entirely of products of these Provinces, was complete in its way, and served to indicate the natural resources of the country.

Arts and Manufactures.

225. The main building of the Exhibition was devoted to the many hundreds, or even thousands, of specimens of "Arts and Manufactures," which were sent from all parts of India. The building, being constructed for an engine-shed, in itself was unsightly; but its interior was suitably decorated. In the centre of the hall was a sort of pyramid of crystal and glassware, the top of which was lost in the flags and drapery that hung down from the roof. At the entrance end of the hall was a trophy of cotton threads and cloth, produced by some of the chief cotton factories of Bombay. At the other end of the hall, in an annexe specially fitted for picture hanging, were the oil paintings and portraits exhibited by Mr. Theodore Jansen. Down the sides and centre were tables, stands, stalls, and screens, and trophies, on which were ranged the various articles pertaining to the different classes into which this department was divided. Of the contributions from other Provinces and countries, the silver work (country made) and jewelry from Calcutta and Bombay; the plastic pottery from Lucknow; the carved wood work from Bombay and from Madras; the inlaid and carved ivory work from Vizagapatam and Bombay, and the ivory work from Berhampore; the broidered stuff of Benares and Delhi; the muslins of Madras; and the machinery made cotton threads and fabrics from the factories at Bombay, —were particularly worthy of note. Among the manufactures of the Central Provinces, were the cotton and silk fabrics of the Nagpore country; the embroideries of Boorhanpore in Nimar; the carvings in stone and wood from Chanda and Nagpore; the armoury, cutlery, and metal work from Nagpore; the ropes and the carpets of the Jubbulpore School of Industry; and the twines and leather work from the regimental workshops. As might be expected, however, the manufactures of the Central Provinces were seen to be much behind those of many parts of India.

Effects of the Exhibition.

226. Before closing this section it may be well to offer a few remarks as to the effects which the Nagpore Exhibition may be expected to have. The many thousands of Native visitors went away pleased, no doubt, with what they had seen; and even that is something for a rude population little accustomed to witness any public spectacles. But it may be hoped

that pleasure and wonder were not the only impression left on their minds. A large portion of the articles exhibited came from different parts of the Central Provinces. Many of the exhibitors attended themselves, and were able to compare what they sent with similar articles presented by their neighbours of other districts, or by persons from other parts of India. In this way, the cutlers, jewellers, braziers, stone-carvers, potters, handloom-weavers, and embroiderers of the Central Provinces, must all have learnt something new regarding their own particular callings. The landholders and others engaged in agriculture saw, by this opportunity, the best products of other localities, and many new fashions of agriculture. And the mass of spectators of many tribes, languages, and professions, who had previously led a secluded and unenlightened existence, who had never enjoyed the chance of seeing anything, save the wildness of nature, or the most rudimentary works of man, must have been improved, even by merely seeing for the first time the effects of mechanical power and the products of refined art. In this way alone, such an Exhibition must have indirectly furthered the cause of popular education. On the European spectators, too, the Exhibition will not have been without its effect. District Officers who collected contributions for the several departments of the Exhibition were compelled to examine carefully the resources of their districts, and to learn much of which they were previously ignorant; and thus they may be moved to stir up their own people for improvement.

227. In respect to the best mode of giving permanence to the effects of the Exhibition, I will add an extract from the Exhibition Report:—

"Lastly, it may be said that no single Exhibition, however "successful, can leave an abiding mark, unless it be followed up "by other Exhibitions at suitable intervals. If there were merely "one Exhibition never repeated, it would be like a flash of light, "beaming around for a moment, but leaving all as dark as before. "The Natives cannot understand a new thing, unless it be held up "before their eyes with something of continuous perseverance. The "first time they may wonder; the second time they may understand; "the third time they may observe with a view to practice. It was "this, among other reasons, that induced the Chief Commissioner to "recommend the holding of an Exhibition at Jubbulpore in 1867, which "the Supreme Government have now been pleased to sanction."

CHAPTER XIV.

CONCLUSION.

228. It remains for me to notice the assistance specially rendered by individual Officers of this Administration during the year.

229. The Judicial Commissioner, Mr. J. S. Campbell, acted as Chief Commissioner during five months of the year under report; the Supreme Government can therefore judge of his good services in that capacity. As Judicial Commissioner, he has continued to supervise the Courts in such a manner as to secure real observance of Law and Procedure.

Mr. R. Egerton acted with entire efficiency as Judicial Commissioner during the same period of the year as that mentioned above. On returning to his post as Commissioner of Nagpore, he had to sustain the heavy work incidental to the presidentship of the Committee for the Industrial Exhibition at Nagpore.

230. Mr. C. E. Bernard has continued to discharge his duties as Secretary in all Civil Departments with the same zeal and ability which have been commended on previous occasions. Lieutenant A. Bloomfield has been of great use and assistance as Assistant Secretary.

231. Mr. J. H. Morris, as Settlement Commissioner, has superintended his very important department with the same carefulness and firmness which have been noticed in former Reports. Among the Divisional Commissioners, Captain H. Mackenzie has supervised fully and effectively his extensive charge. Major W. Nembhard and Mr. A. C. Lyall have officiated in the office of Commissioner in a manner that gives high promise of future usefulness.

232. Among the Deputy Commissioners, Mr. M. Low has done the best, and has held the hardest charge during the year. Lieut.-Colonel J. N. H. Maclean and Mr. C. Grant have also proved themselves to be excellent District Officers, while performing Settlement work in addition. The following Deputy Commissioners have done very well:—

Mr. W. B. Jones.	Capt. C. B. Lucie Smith.
Major A. B. Cumberlege.	Mr. J. W. Chisholm.
Capt. F. A. Fenton.	Mr. H. Read.
„ H. F. Newmarch.	

The following Deputy Commissioners also deserve mention:—

Capt. C. L. R. Glasfurd.	Major J. Ashburner.
„ E. R. Twyford.	

Among the Assistant Commissioners—

Capt. J. L. Loch.	Capt. H. J. Lugard.
Lieut. H. C. E. Ward.	Lieut. J. A. Temple.
„ M. M. Bowie.	„ W. Vertue.
„ T. A. Scott.	„ J. W. Macdougall.

are specially commended.

Of the Settlement Officers—

Mr. J. H. Rivett-Carnac.	Mr. T. Hewitt.
Mr. A. J. Lawrence.	Mr. A. M. Russell.

have proved highly efficient.

233. Mr. F. Macnaghten has discharged his duties as Judge of the Small Cause Court at Jubbulpore, with an efficieney which is proved by the great increase in the business of the Court.

Captain E. M. Playfair has disposed of satisfactorily the work pertaining to the Cantonment Magistracy of the very large Cantonment of Kamptee.

234. Among the Extra-Assistant Commissioners, the following have been very useful:—

Mr. W. Munton.	Mr. R. Hamilton.
Azeezoodeen.	Mr. W. A. Nedham.
Oulad Hossein.	Mr. S. Hennessy.
Mr. D. A. Cameron.	

235. Among the Tehseeldars, Nehal Chund, of Garurwarra (Nursingpore); Bhaskur Rao, of Nagpore; Devee Pershad, of Baitool; Kesho Sheoram, of Kampta (Bhundara); Nago Rao, of Belaspore; Adjodhia Pershad, of Droog (Raepore); Balmokund Putnaik, of Burgurh (Sumbulpore); Mudad Emam, of Khorai (Saugor); Muksood-ool-Hossein, of Sleemanabad (Jubbulpore); Madho Rao, of Burwai (Nimar); Tukut Singh, Tehseeldar of Huttah (Dumoh),—deserve favorable mention.

236. Of the Officers engaged in ministerial duties, the services of Mr. G. Barclay, Superintendent of the Office of the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner have been most useful. Commendation is also due to Mr. J. S. Hannagan and Mr. W. A. Russell, the Head Clerks of the Offices of the Commissioners in the Jubbulpore and Nerbudda Divisions. Mr. T. Drysdale, Superintendent of the Judicial Commissioner's Office, has been specially commended.

237. In the Police Department the Inspector General, Lieut.-Colonel H. D. Taylor, continues to render great service to these Provinces, by bringing all his subordinates into proper relation with the Magistrates, and by striving to render the Force efficient for all public purposes and acceptable to the people.

Of the Officers subordinate to him, the following are selected for special commendation :—

Capt. F. G. Steuart, (who also acted for three months as Inspector General).	Capt. C. S. B. Walton.
Lieut.-Col. G. G. Moxon.	Mr. J. M. Berrill.
Capt. H. Fraser.	Capt. J. D. Vallance.
„ W. J. Morris.	Mr. M. P. Hanken.
	Devee Pershad.

Inspectors :—

Mr. W. Price.	Mr. A. Wrixon.

238. In the Educational Department, Captain Loch officiated with credit as Director of Public Instruction. Major Dods has satisfactorily resumed his duties towards the close of the year, on his return from furlough. Lieutenant G. H. Trevor has been highly successful as Inspector of the Northern Circle. Among the Masters of Schools, Mr. A. Drysdale and Mr. Durham are deserving of praise.

239. The Inspector of Prisons and Dispensaries, Dr. R. T. Abbott, has supervised these departments in a highly satisfactory manner.

240. In the Account Department, Mr. W. Biss, the Deputy Auditor and Accountant General, has conducted the business very efficiently, and promoted many useful reforms.

241. In the Public Works Department, the office of Chief Engineer and Secretary to the Chief Commissioner was held throughout the year by Colonel W. Maxwell, with entire efficiency, and really with untiring industry. Captain C. J. Mead, though joining his post as Superintending Engineer late in the year, has already been the means of doing much good.

Among the Executive Engineers, I would select the following for special mention, for the good progress of their works :—

Mr. J. S. Heyman.	Lieut.-Col. A. G. Priestley.
„ J. W. O'Donnell.	Mr. R. Tyndall.

Among the Assistant Engineers, there are five Officers who have done more than ordinarily well, and have since the close of the year received the promotion which they well merited :—

Mr. J. H. Wilson.	Mr. H. Bell.
„ F. L. O'Callaghan.	„ F. Johnston.

Mr. John Span has done good service as Municipal Engineer of the City of Nagpore.

Among the Assistants, I must also mention Mr. J. Whiting, who, as a practical executive, is not surpassed by any Officer in the Department.

242. In the Railway Department, Major J. St. J. Hovenden, Bengal Engineers, and Lieutenant G. W. Oldham, Bombay Engineers, have rendered much assistance to this Administration in all matters connected with that Department.

243. In the Forest Department, Lieutenant J. Forsyth has very efficiently performed the duties of Conservator during the year. Among the Assistants, Lieutenant Doveton and Mr. Jacob have done their duty with an intelligent care and zeal, amidst personal hardship, that merit high praise.

244. The Administration in these Provinces is under great obligations to the Commissioner of Customs, Mr. W. E. Money, and to Mr. F. W. Vere, Deputy Commissioner, for their excellent supervision.

Among the Officers of the Customs Department, Mr. T. Martin, Mr. G. M. Jones, Mr. H. Ives, deserve special mention.

245. In the Professional Survey, Captain R. E. Oakes, Colonel G. H. Saxton, Captain A. D. Vanrenen, Captain J. Macdonald, and Mr. J. Mulheran, have ably executed a large amount of useful work.

246. Mr. C. Hutchinson was appointed to the head of the Postal Department towards the close of the year; he has already done much to improve the mail service and the administration of his Department in these Provinces.

247. Among the Medical Officers, the following have distinguished themselves by professional zeal and usefulness:—

Dr. S. C. Townsend.	Dr. J. Brake.
Dr. W. R. Rice.	Dr. W. R. Grylls.
Dr. J. Law.	Mr. G. Law.
Dr. P. Cullen.	Mr. T. King.

248. Although only the best have been mentioned in the foregoing paragraphs, it is but just to state that, as a body, the various Officers under this Administration have, in their respective spheres, during this year exerted themselves with continuous perseverance, not only to execute the Law and to carry out orders, but also to do good permanently both to the departments under their care and to the people in their charge.

NAGPORE:
The 23rd July 1866.

R. TEMPLE.

ABSTRACT STATEMENT of Receipts and Disbursements of the Central Provinces for the year 1865-66.

RECEIPTS:—	Received during the year 1865-66. Rs.	A.	P.	TOTAL. Rs.	A.	P.
I.—Land Revenue.	58,37,374	0	0			
III.—Forests.	2,00,363	0	0			
IV.—Abkaree.	9,55,062	0	0			
V.—Income Tax.	79,263	0	0			
VI.—Customs.	89,526	0	0			
VII.—Salt.	17,35,936	0	0			
IX.—Stamps.	5,58,155	0	0			
XIII.—Law and Justice.	1,92,370	0	0			
XIV.—Police.	1,29,693	0	0			
XVI.—Education.	580	0	0			
XVIII.—Miscellaneous.	42,993	0	0			
				99,00,655	0	0
Service Funds.						
Police Superannuation Fund. ..	..	..	..	31,426	0	0
Local Funds.						
Ferry Fund.	93,180	0	0			
Road Fund.	1,78,426	0	0			
Municipal Fund. ..	9,09,905	0	0			
School Fund.	1,58,244	0	0			
Dispensary Fund. ..	13,134	0	0			
General Police Fund. ..	2,555	0	0			
District Dawk Fund. ..	27,581	0	0			
Putwaree Fund. ..	1,40,982	0	0			
Chanda Fund. ..	9,778	0	0			
Nuzool Fund. ..	57,247	0	0			
Tullubana Fund. ..	46,843	0	0			
Staging Bungalow Fund. ..	8,924	0	0			
Pound Fund. ..	37,259	0	0			
Chowkedaree Fund. ..	22,434	0	0			
Malikana Fund. ..	1,821	0	0			
				17,07,613	0	0
TOTAL. ..	..	..	..	1,16,39,694	0	0

DISBURSEMENTS:—	Disbursements during the year 1865-66. Rs.	A.	P.	TOTAL. Rs.	A.	P.
3. Allowances, Refunds, and Drawback.	3,44,905	0	0			
4. Land Revenue—Revenue Depts. ..	14,02,858	0	0			
5. Forests.	1,05,504	0	0			
6. Abkaree.	22,675	0	0			
7. Income Tax.	541	0	0			
9. Salt.	3,91,353	0	0			
11. Stamps.	21,577	0	0			
16. Administration and Public Depts. ..	3,26,385	0	0			
17. Law and Justice.	7,47,002	0	0			
18. Police.	13,18,012	0	0			
20. Education.	1,67,082	0	0			
21. Ecclesiastical.	30,206	0	0			
22. Medical.	1,23,247	0	0			
23. Stationery and Printing. ..	26,208	8	0			
24. Political Agencies	6,279	0	0			
25. Allowances and Assignments under Treaties and Engagements. ..	11,45,019	0	0			
26. Miscellaneous.	1,33,301	0	0			
27. Superannuations, &c.	1,74,003	0	0			
				64,93,017	0	0
Service Funds.						
Police Superannuation Fund. ..	..	..	..	757	0	0
Local Funds.						
Ferry Fund.	69,717	0	0			
Road Fund.	1,40,694	0	0			
Municipal Fund.	8,59,592	0	0			
Dispensary Fund.	5,243	0	0			
School Fund.	1,52,431	0	0			
General Police Fund.	4,497	0	0			
Putwaree Fund.	1,23,867	0	0			
Chanda Fund.	10,110	0	0			
Nuzool Fund.	57,927	0	0			
Tullubana Fund.	18,222	0	0			
Staging Bungalow Fund. ..	7,153	0	0			
Pound Fund.	44,169	0	0			
Chowkedaree Fund.	16,492	0	0			
Malikana Fund.	5,842	0	0			
District Dawk Fund.	1,865	0	0			
				15,17,826	0	0
TOTAL. ..	..	..	..	80,11,600	0	0

WEBSTER BISS,
Deputy Accountant General,
Central Provinces.

NOTE.—The above sum total of Receipts (Rs. 1,16,39,694) includes Rs. 1,26,778 on account of contribution of Local Funds for Local Police in two places, viz.,—first, under the head *Local Funds*, and secondly, under *Police*. The net Revenue therefore is Rs. 1,16,39,694 minus Rs. 1,26,778 = Rs. 1,15,12,916.

NOTE.—In calculating the net total charge, Rs. 1,26,778 should be deducted from the total above given, for reasons similar to that given on the Receipt side.

REPORT

ON THE

ADMINISTRATION

OF THE

CENTRAL PROVINCES

FOR THE YEAR 1866-67.

BY

J. H. MORRIS, ESQUIRE, B. C. S.

Nagpore:
Printed and Published by M. LAWLOR *at the Chief Commissioner's Office Press.*

1867.

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REPORT

ON THE

CENTRAL PROVINCES' ADMINISTRATION,

1866-67.

INTRODUCTION.

The sixth Report of the Administration of the Central Provinces is now submitted, comprising mainly the proceedings of the year 1866-67. Following the custom of previous years, there will in this introductory Chapter be offered a brief general sketch of the condition of the country and the people during the year 1867.

So far as the government of these Provinces is concerned, one of the most notable events of the year 1867, was the departure of the late Chief Commissioner to fill an important office in another part of India. As the Administration of these provinces was first established by Mr. Temple, and as it has been consolidated during his five years' rule; it may be fitting, in the introduction to the first report prepared after his departure, briefly to review what has been done during the last few years for the good of the people and for the interests of the State in this part of India.

The regular Settlement of the land tax, with all its attendant operations has been pushed on vigorously and persistently. Over almost the whole of these provinces, all rights in the land have been investigated, defined, and recorded. A moderate land tax has been fixed for periods of twenty or thirty years. Every class interested in the land,—the Feudatories; the petty chiefs who own large estates; the ordinary landholders; the proprietors of holdings, and the occupiers of fields,—each one now knows what his absolute and relative rights in the land are, and what are his

obligations, either towards the public treasury or towards his feudal superior. So closely are the interests of the people and the State interwoven that, while all these matters have been arranged, it has been found feasible at the regular Settlement to raise the Government land tax from fifty-four to fifty-eight lakhs of rupees per annum (or from £540,000 to £580,000). And while ownership over all the cultivated land, and over a large extent of waste, has been recognized in private landholders, the rights of the State in unoccupied waste lands have been asserted and defined. In this way, some twenty-four thousand square miles of waste land have been marked off as State property. From these wastes considerable annual revenue already accrues; and further fiscal increase may be expected from this source.

By establishing an approved judicial system; by organizing police, and by enforcing sanitation, effort has been made to provide security for life and property. The aggregate of crime committed is as great as, or indeed greater than it was five years ago. But while crimes which are the result of passion continue to occur; and while petty offences against property are still rife; crimes of violence, such as gang robbery, affray, and the like, have been put down. Within the last year there have also been signs that the careful watching of the criminal classes has effected something towards the repression of petty crime. The most influential class in the country, the landholders, now give much active assistance towards keeping down and punishing crime.

Great progress has also been made in improving the Judiciary. The vernacular of the country has everywhere been made the language of our Courts. Promptitude in the disposal of magisterial business is general; while at the same time, adherence to law and procedure is enforced by precept and by supervision. An unpaid magistracy, consisting of landowners and other Native gentlemen of influence and integrity, has been called into existence in every district. The sixty or seventy Honorary Magistrates, who hold Courts in our cities and towns, transact one-fifth of the magisterial business of the country, with credit to themselves, and with satisfaction to the people.

If the popularity and success of our Civil Courts may be evidenced by the annually increasing number of suitors, then it may be well to note, that when Mr. Temple first assumed the direction of affairs in these Provinces, there were nineteen thousand original Civil suits instituted annually, and that during the last year of his administration there were forty-five thousand original causes. In the chief cities of the country, Small Cause Courts, presided over by selected judges, have been established. Promptitude in the disposal of Civil cases has been secured; and during the last three years, the time occupied by an average case from its institution to its decision has ranged from fourteen to sixteen days.

Portions of the Central Provinces have borne a name for insalubrity; and epidemic disease has in former years made much havoc along certain traffic routes. To combat disease, there were in the year 1862 sixteen Dispensaries; there are now fifty-six of these institutions, at which one hundred and forty thousand sufferers are treated annually. A special agency has been organized for spreading vaccination, and tens of thousands of children are now annually protected from small-pox. Conservancy, and water-supply arrangements have done much to mitigate disease in our cities and towns. Many of our towns can now, in respect of cleanliness, of conservancy, and of the rate of mortality, vie with the best cities in Northern India. Much effort, not wholly without result, has been made towards the inculcation and the observance of sanitary rules in country towns and villages. Epidemic cholera was found to spread itself over the country at fixed times of the year. And there were good grounds for believing that it was engendered at some of the fairs, or religious gatherings, which took place at trying seasons of the year. At any rate, it was quite clear that the disease was disseminated by pilgrims returning from these gatherings. Accordingly, the holding of such fairs in these provinces at the unhealthy season was, in the interest of the public health, prevented; and, where gatherings of the kind occurred outside our border, the passage of pilgrims to and fro along our roads was discouraged. Even the natives themselves now admit that cholera has been a less frequent and less fatal visitor, since these measures have been taken.

While the material and moral prosperity of the people has been advanced, their intellectual advancement has also received attention. Government schools of various grades have been established in towns and villages. A regular department for their supervision has been organized. Aid and support of all kinds have been given to the educational institutions established by Missionary bodies, and to the rural schools opened by benevolent Native gentlemen. In 1861 there were about three hundred and fifty schools, with fourteen thousand scholars, there are now in these provinces, fifteen hundred and seventy schools with fifty-eight thousand scholars. During the last year about four lakhs of rupees (£40,000) were spent on education in the Central Provinces. Of this sum, nearly a lakh of rupees (£10,000) were contributed by private individuals.

The physical improvement of the country has also received a great impulse during the last five years. The area over which operations were extended was so vast, compared with the means at command, that it may seem as if no great impression had been made. Still, something has been done. In the matter of communications, we have now four hundred miles of made road, metalled and bridged; whereas there were only seventy miles in the year 1861. About one hundred and fifty miles more are under construction. Many miles of feeder roads to the several railway stations are being made by the local Committees.

The great Godavery navigation scheme, begun before 1862, has been pushed on; its merits have been discussed; its designs have been reconsidered and finally settled; and the time is now not far distant when trade on the Godavery will actually begin. Several useful irrigation schemes have been devised; and though the irrigation department has yet hardly put a spade into the ground, yet much valuable information has been gathered; and projects have been planned on which work will, during the current year, really begin. It would be tedious to tell of all the Military and Civil buildings which have been erected during the last five years. Churches, barracks, magazines, court-houses, hospitals, rest-houses for travellers, museums, police stations, public offices of all kinds, have been constructed, according as funds permitted, and as public requirements dictated.

With the construction of railways,—a work beside which all other physical improvements are dwarfed,—the executive Government of these provinces has indeed no direct concern. But such indirect assistance, as may have been possible, has been given. None know so well, as the constructors of these great works, the extent and value of the support they received from Mr. Temple's administration. His occasional exhortations to increased exertion may also have had salutary effect in procuring the early completion of the railway system in these territories.

Nor has the work of local improvement been limited by the grants which could be made from the general revenues, and from local and municipal funds. Private persons have in some number come forward to construct from their own funds, works of public ornament and utility. Hospitals, travellers' rest-houses, squares, school-houses, wells, erected during the last few years by private benevolence, adorn many of our towns and road-sides.

The public revenue has also received full attention. A forest department has been organized, which conserves the timber resources of the country, and at the same time yields a revenue of four lakhs of rupees (£40,000) a year. The salt tax, which in the year 1861 afforded an income of nine lakhs of rupees (£90,000) per annum, now realizes eighteen lakhs (£180,000) a year. And this increase has been gained without raising the rate of duty, or burdening the poor. Indeed, at the present moment the retail price of salt at Nagpore is cheaper than it has been for the last seven years. The liquor excise revenue has been placed on a sound footing; and those parts of the fiscal system which were found to encourage intemperance have been done away with. The stamp revenue has during the last five years more than doubled. The burden of certain local assessed taxes which used to press upon the poorer classes, has been transferred to the rich, with benefit both to the people and to the public treasury.

If the material prosperity of a country can in any way be gauged by statistics of revenue and production, then it is worthy of note that, during the last year, the people of the Central Provinces paid into the public treasury one hundred

and twenty-one lakhs of rupees (£1,210,000) as compared with eighty-two lakhs (£820,000) in 1862; that, during the past year, they voluntarily contributed about three and half lakhs of rupees (£35,000) to charitable objects, to public and local improvements, to educational purposes, and to industrial Exhibitions, whereas in 1862, they scarcely gave a rupee towards things of the kind; that during the last twelve months they exported to other provinces four hundred and thirty-four lakhs of rupees (£4,340,000) worth of produce and manufactures, as compared with one hundred and sixty-five lakhs' (£1,650,000) worth in 1863, the earliest year for which we possess statistics;—that they imported during the past year four hundred and sixty-four lakhs of rupees (£4,642,000) worth of foreign commodities, exclusive of bullion, whereas they imported only ninety-eight lakhs' (£980,000) worth in the year 1863.

Whatever of progress has been noted in the foregoing paragraphs, was secured during Mr. Temple's rule. No such progress had been seen in this part of India before. Much of it may, nay must be due to the action of natural, commercial, and social forces. But something, at any rate, may have been the result of good government; and must have been due to the personal exertions of Mr. Temple, to the system which he introduced, and to the body of Officers whom he trained.

Perhaps among the many ways in which Mr. Temple benefitted the Central Provinces, that service will not be reckoned the least important which he rendered by placing before the Supreme Government and the public, full reports of the country, its people, its resources, its capabilities, and its trade. His thorough knowledge of the country, gained in many long and arduous journeys, performed at all seasons of the year, enabled him to report fully upon schemes for roads, for railways, for irrigation, for navigation, for mining enterprize, the full accomplishment of which will hardly be seen by the present generation.

The special subject of this Introduction, namely, the condition of the country and the people, during the last six months of 1866 and the first six months of 1867, may now be resumed.

The seasons, as affecting the autumn harvest of 1866, and the spring harvest of 1867, were in all respects favourable. Early rains made the parched land ready for the sower; there was an interval of propitious weather for the young plants to sprout; occasional and sufficient rain fell while the crops were growing. When the autumn staples were ripening the clouds held off: and a full harvest of rice, of cotton, and of millet, was successfully garnered. Over the whole country, but more especially in the northern tracts, ample winter showers fell and gave vigour to the young wheat, and to other spring crops. When the time came round, a good harvest of wheat, of oil-seeds, and pulses gladdened the husbandman.

Four or five years had passed since good autumn and spring harvests had been reaped in one season. Indeed, for two or three years, the food crops have been short. The two successive harvests of the past year, everywhere full, and in some parts even abundant, have been of immense benefit to the farmers and to the country generally. Indeed, if the yield of corn had been again short, there must have been much, perhaps even wide-spread distress and misery. In an Indian province there are usually large stores of corn in the hands of grain-dealers or farmers, on which the community can fall back in a year of scarcity. In ordinary times these stores are replenished as each spring crop is garnered, and they are not drawn upon until the next wheat sowings come round. But there had been in these provinces slender harvests for three or four years. And, concurrent with short production, there had been, under the stimulant of almost famine prices, a large and continuous export of food grains to the cotton districts of Berar and Bombay, and to the opium growing tracts of Malwa. It thus happened that the granaries of the country where almost exhausted.

In July 1866, when last year's report was submitted, the price of corn was very high; it had been steadily rising for some time, and there was prospect of still further advance. There were signs of distress: and many classes of the population were much pinched. Large demands were made on private charity; demands which among a Hindoo community are rarely disregarded. Regular relief operations were organized at the principal cities. And during the earlier part of

the autumn, as much as four hundred rupees (£40) contributed by the citizens, were spent every month in Nagpore in providing a single daily meal for the destitute poor.

The dearness culminated in September, when the average price of wheat for the whole of these territories was ten seers for a rupee (or fifty shillings a *quarter). In the dearest tracts the price was six and half seers for a rupee; in the cheapest district it was sixteen seers for a rupee. At that time the prospect was dark. An experienced official, speaking of his autumn tour through the best wheat growing tracts in the country, wrote thus:—

"Having been thus blessed with a good harvest, we shall never "know how near we were to a scarcity of food, approaching to famine "in some parts of the country. But in September and October last "there were some grounds for anxiety. Prices were extremely high, "and although opinions about the amount of grain in store were con- "flicting, I never remember observing so many village grain pits yawn- "ing with emptiness. On the other hand, the supply of work for "labourers had decreased, owing partly to the time of year, and partly "to the advanced state of the railway works. And while a general "complaint of hard times was everywhere heard, stories began to be "told of individual suffering from want of food."

In October the prospects of the autumn harvest became known; and things became a little better. As the crop ripened; as the spring cereals came on; and as they in turn were garnered, prices continued to fall. And now, at the time of writing, the average price of wheat over the whole country is eighteen seers for a rupee, (or twenty-eight shillings a quarter). The lowest price now ruling in any district is thirty-two seers for a rupee; and the highest is nine seers for a rupee. At the present time there are no signs of distress; all classes seem contented and well to do. Special relief arrangements are no longer required, save at Sumbulpore, where prices are affected by the dark shadow of famine in the neighbouring province of Orissa.

The productiveness of the land during the past year has restored vigour to the important traffic, which for the previous twelve months had somewhat waned, whereby the corn lands of the Nerbudda valley, and the rice fields of Chutteesgurh

* At 63lbs per bushel.

supply food grains to the hungry regions of the west. During the last six months, Nagpore and the cotton tracts around it have drawn two hundred and sixty thousand maunds (9,630 tons) of grain from Chutteesgurh; and three hundred and sixty-two thousand maunds (13,407 tons) from the Jubbulpore country. Large supplies of rice and wheat, amounting to five hundred thousand maunds (18,518 tons) have also been sent from Nagpore and the Nerbudda valley to the markets of Berar, Khandeish, and Malwa. The recent opening of the railway to Nagpore has given an impulse to this trade. For weeks together, five or six hundred bags of rice a week used to be despatched westwards from the Nagpore terminus. Then again, food grains, chiefly rice, to the amount of sixty-one thousand maunds (2,260 tons) have been sent from Sumbulpore, down the Mahanuddy river, to the famine stricken districts of Orissa. A considerable export of wheat also occurred from the Nerbudda valley towards Mirzapore. Some years back large quantities of produce used to go by this route. But of late years the markets of Malwa, of Nagpore, and of Berar, have attracted all the surplus produce of the Nerbudda country. The circumstance that thousands of carts which had brought railway material to Jubbulpore, were available to carry grain to Mirzapore, may explain this partial revival of an old trade.

While the export traffic in grain has been brisker than in any previous year, the cotton trade has also been active. The price of cotton has, indeed, ruled lower than during the three foregoing years. But then the market has been steadier, and the variations of price have been much smaller. In former years the price of Hingunghat cotton at Liverpool has been up to 25*d.* and down to 6*d.* a pound. During the last year it has ranged between 9*d.* and 13*d.* a pound; and it has stood generally at about 11*d.* Good authorities consider that it would be the best thing possible for the cotton trade of these parts, if the Liverpool price of Hingunghat cotton were to settle down steadily to about 10*d.* a pound. The possibility of enormous gains and enormous losses,—which imbues the merchant with something of a gambler's spirit,—would then disappear. Such loss as accrued on the cotton trade of the last year, fell mainly on the large dealers who

bargained for cotton in January, when Liverpool quotations were 13*d.* a pound; and who sold in April when they had fallen to 9*d.* a pound. The producers and local dealers had, for the most part, realized on their cotton before prices declined. The total yield of the cotton fields of these territories during the past year is estimated to have been thirty-two and a half millions of pounds; and seven and a half millions of pounds were imported from Berar. Of this total twenty-nine millions of pounds, or about 72,990 bales of 400lbs. each, were exported to Bombay.

Much has been done during the past year to improve cotton culture, and to promote the development of the cotton trade. A Cotton Commissioner has been appointed, whose especial business it will be to introduce superior kinds of cotton, or to improve the indigenous staple; to perfect the processes whereby cotton is picked, cleaned and packed; and to facilitate its export by such arrangements as may be possible. The measures taken in former years in this direction are already bearing fruit. Regarding the cotton crop of 1867 a leading Bombay firm, which has traded in Indian cotton for many years, writes,—"the Hingunghat cotton is particularly good, and the way that it is sent down to market, is a credit to the grower and the dealer."

The export trade in Nagpore cotton fabrics continues to be considerable. Though according to the trade returns, there is a very slight falling off in the amount and value of this traffic.

The bulk and value of the foreign commodities imported into Nagpore are very much larger than in any previous year. This result is doubtless owing mainly to the opening of two railway lines, one into the heart of the Nagpore country, and one into the Nerbudda valley. The import of English piece-goods, which had declined somewhat in the foregoing year, is now larger than it ever was before. According to the trade returns, over two thousand tons of piece-goods, valued at sixty-six lakhs of rupees (£660,000), were brought into the Central Provinces during the year 1866-67. The traffic in hardware, in machinery, and miscellaneous foreign goods

has also increased largely. The workshops and warehouses of Bombay are now brought so near to Nagpore, that our Engineers actually find it economical to get up by railway from Bombay machine sawn planks, and machine made doors and windows.

Though the price of necessaries has fallen, yet the wages of labour continue at about the same high rate which they attained two years ago. Since the completion of the railway works, there may have been some small fall in the wages of the most unskilled class of labourers. But even for workers of that class there is still an immense demand in the rural districts, where the business of weeding, of picking cotton, and indeed, all farming work is, as yet, imperfectly done. The wages of skilled labour, of artizans, of domestic servants, and of craftsmen of all kinds are as high, or even higher than ever. The measures which have, under the orders of the Supreme Government, been taken to make the salaries of public servants more nearly in proportion to the market price of labour, are described in a subsequent Chapter of this report.

The commercial classes complain that the past year has not been a year of profit to them. In so far that the land-holding community are now well off, and have little occasion to borrow money or corn at usurious rates of interest, there may be some truth in this statement. It may also be the case that trade competition is becoming freer and more brisk; that while transactions are becoming multiplied, the profit on each operation is more limited. In illustration of what is meant, it may be interesting to consider the grain trade between Nagpore and the eastern districts, the salt and piece-goods trade between Nagpore and Bombay; and to compare the trade, as it is now, with what it was three or four years back.

Formerly, a farmer in Chutteesgurh or Bhundara was always in debt; he had to borrow money and corn at the sowing season, and had no choice but to assign his next crop to his banker at such rates as the creditor might dictate. In this way large dealers could get into their hands at low rates the bulk of the crop over considerable tracts of country.

They carried the produce to the dearest markets, and realized large profits. Now-a-days the farmer is free from debt, and has money and corn in hand. He is under no necessity of hypothecating his crop. And when it is reaped he can himself take it where he likes. In this way the farmer secures for himself a large share of the profit, which used to go to the money-lender and the grain-seller. Last spring, as soon as the harvest work was over, endless strings of carts from Chutteesgurh, and from the Wynguinga country, brought rice, wheat, and pulse, into the marts of Nagpore and Kamptee; or even passed through the Nagpore country, en route for the dearer markets of Berar. The farmers, who drove the carts and owned the produce, seemed to regard these journeyings as a pleasant way of spending what would be otherwise a dull season of the year, and as a sure mode of getting a full price for their grain.

Again, in the salt or piece-goods trade, large sums had formerly to be remitted to Bombay; the goods had to be bought, and then to be dragged on carts, or carried on pack-bullocks, over cross country tracks, for hundreds of miles. And for their safety and protection it was necessary that such convoys should be pretty large. Three months at least must in such cases elapse before the consignment could reach Nagpore. Two months more must pass before the money could again be available for fresh ventures. None but wealthy dealers could embark in business of this kind. Petty merchants could not afford to have their money so long idle. And accordingly, the great traders, released from competition, made proportionately large profits. Now the procedure is widely different. A dealer tells his correspondent at Bombay to send him up a hundred bags of salt, or a couple of bales of piece-goods, and to draw on him for the amount. Ten days after the order was sent, the consignment, whether it be large or small, is delivered at Nagpore free of risk of all kinds. And the consequence is that, whereas two years ago the salt and piece-goods trade between Nagpore and Bombay was in the hands of half a dozen large dealers, there are now scores of petty traders, who get up consignments on their own account, and are content with small profits, so long as they can turn their money over quickly.

Similarly, a revolution has taken place in the character of the rice trade with Berar and Khandeish. This traffic was formerly confined to a few Kamptee and Oomrawuttee firms. Since the railway opened to Nagpore it has become a common practice for petty dealers, to buy fifty or sixty bags of rice at the Kamptee weekly market; to put the rice on the railway waggons; to take it to Sheogaum in Berar; to sell it on market day there; and to come back with the money within four days. So again with the trade in silver coin, or in bullion. Formerly the business of getting up money from Bombay, on fast trotting camels and under an armed guard, used to be a lucrative though tedious traffic, in which only a few bankers with long purses could embark. Now every dealer who wants silver to pay for his cotton at Hinguughat can get it up by railway in two days with perfect safety.

In these ways, it may really be the case that excessive profits cannot now be realized on a few large transactions. But then, on the other hand, trade is brisker, competition is keener; and commercial transactions are more extensive. And the country, and the people generally are benefitted.

While these changes have been taking place the several Government departments have been making steady progress. The Settlement of the land tax has been finally completed for ten districts; the revised assessments have been formally confirmed; and the large establishments which were employed on settlement operations have been broken up. The land tax is now everywhere moderate. Landowners are becoming year by year more prosperous. Rents are steadily, though slowly rising. The price of land too, is higher than it ever was before. According to the returns for the past year, the selling price of land in only four districts is less than five times the land tax to which it may be assessed. In one district, land sold for thirteen times; in another for seventeen times; and in a third for twenty times the annual land tax assessed upon it. The margin of cultivation is everywhere extending, while the margin of waste is receding. Near the large towns, wealthy bankers, who formerly restricted themselves to money-lending and corn-dealing, are now buying waste lands or bidding for such estates as may

be in the market. Perhaps, this circumstance is as good evidence as we could have, that farming is a more lucrative business than it was in these territories.

Education also is making its way by degrees. The number of schools of all kinds, and of scholars is increasing. And the people themselves are taking more and more interest in, and contributing more liberally towards education. The desire for English learning is spreading. In about thirty towns the residents subscribed, during the past year, funds towards opening English classes. In one district, Sumbulpore, a regular system of popular education has, within the last three years sprung into existence. During the last year the people of this one district subscribed twenty-five thousand rupees (£2,500) towards educational purposes. With the help of grants of money from the public treasury there are now two hundred and eight schools in the Sumbulpore district; and one child to every thirty souls of the population is under instruction.

A census of the population of these Provinces, the first ever taken, was effected during the year. All the people were counted on one night in the autumn. The business of counting was easily and quietly done; the people themselves gave cordial aid to the operation, and the results obtained are considered to be fairly reliable. The total population of the Central Provinces amounts, according to the census, to a little more than nine millions of souls. The returns of tribes; of professions; of sexes, collected on this occasion, are of much interest; and they will, it is hoped, form a valuable basis for judicial, administrative and fiscal statistics.

The public revenues have been punctually realized during the past year. And the total receipts are five and half lakhs of rupees (£55,000), about six per cent in excess of the income for the preceding year. Expansion has been apparent under all heads of revenue, save the salt duties. The opening of the railway to Nagpore caused a temporary lull in the salt trade; and the Customs receipts were proportionately affected. Since the close of the official year the trade has more than recovered itself.

Public improvements of various kinds have been pushed on, as far as means admitted. Among buildings required for departments of the public service, barracks, jails, court-houses,

have made much progress during the past year. The scheme for making the Godavery navigable will shortly be in part accomplished. After the operations of one more year, another long reach of this noble river, from the first to the second barrier, will be open to steamers. The work of metalling and bridging roads has gone on. One, the most important of our roads, from Nagpore to Jubbulpore is now nearly completed. The eastern road, and the cotton roads of the southern districts are progressing towards completion. An important commercial and military road from Saugor to the railway is in hand. When these roads are ready, a beginning will have been made. But the country is large, the soil in parts is unfavourable, and the natural obstacles to road-making are very great. Many years must elapse before a system of roads, sufficient for the wants of the country and of the traffic shall have been provided.

Happily, these provinces are not dependent, for their arterial communications, upon the unavoidably slow progress attainable with grants from the public revenues. Three railway lines, belonging to two great companies, pass through the heart of these territories. One of these railways was opened to Nagpore, for public traffic, in the month of February last. And Nagpore is now within thirty hours' travel of Bombay and the sea-board. Another has penetrated over a hundred miles into the Nerbudda valley, and will within a year or two, run for three hundred and fifty miles through the richest parts of the Central Provinces. The third railway is complete, and has now established through communication between Jubbulpore and the Nerbudda country on the south, and the Ganges valley on the north. The changes which these railways will surely and speedily work in the ways of the people; in the trade; and in the prosperity of the country, are too vast to be spoken of here. In other parts of India, and in Europe generally, railways have been preceded by a network of roads and of canals, on which the traffic of the country had been carried for years. The northern districts of these provinces had indeed a good and improvable road between Jubbulpore and Mirzapore, by which connection could be kept up with the Ganges and Calcutta. But the Nagpore country, the lower districts of the Nerbudda valley and Chutteesgurh, were utterly land-locked.

It took two months for a consignment of piece-goods or salt to get from Bombay to Nagpore. Such journeys could be only made at favourable seasons of the year, and at great expense. For five months out of every twelve, all the carts in the country were taken to pieces and laid by, until the open season came round again. To these parts then the benefit conferred by railways, supplemented by a system of roads, will indeed be indefinite. In a previous paragraph of this Chapter, mention has been made of the revolution already working in the salt and other import trades. It may be well to mention here one of the many boons which the railway has already conferred on the poorer classes. During the last seven years the retail price of salt at Nagpore has ranged from five seers to six and half seers a rupee (from $1\frac{3}{4}$ *d.* to $2\frac{1}{2}$*d.* a pound). Since the salt trade and the Customs department have been adapted to the requirements of railway traffic, the retail price of salt at Nagpore has ranged from seven and a half to eight and a half seers for the rupee (from $1\frac{1}{2}$*d.* to $1\frac{1}{2}$*d.* a pound). This immediate cheapening of an article of universal consumption is a benefit which will be appreciated by every family in the country. It were perhaps unnecessary to add here that material benefits are not the only advantages which the people are deriving from the opening of railway communication. Men are beginning to travel to and fro in great numbers. Hundreds, and even thousands of men who in former times never journeyed ten miles away from their homes are now carried by rail to Bombay, to Indore, to Poonah, to Calcutta and to Delhi. Railway travellers of this kind cannot but see something new; they can hardly fail to imbibe fresh ideas; to some extent their intelligence must be improved. Indeed, the impulse which will in this way be given to the intellectual development of the people can hardly be estimated too highly.

CHAPTER V.

POST OFFICE.

Provincial head of Postal department.

113. In last year's report it was mentioned that the Postal department in these Provinces had been placed under the charge of a Chief Inspector, and that more efficient administration might be looked for. The expectation then expressed has been fulfilled, and much has been done, during the year 1866-67, to improve, and extend the imperial Postal department; to develope the rural post; and to expedite the transmission of the mails.

114. The extent of the mail lines in these Provinces at the close of the year 1866-67, was as follows:—

Mails carried by railway	.. ..	158 miles.
„	either in mail carts or on saddle horses ..	406 „
„	runners on imperial postal lines ...	2,230 „
„	„ on rural postal lines ..	3,200 „

Extent of postal lines.

115. The 406 miles of horsed postal line is, at present perhaps, the most important link in Indian postal communication, inasmuch as it is the only length on which mails between Europe and Calcutta are not carried by steam power. The average speed attained on this road by the public mails has been 8½ miles an hour during the year 1866-67. The general average speed attained by runners on Imperial postal lines has been from 3½ to 4 miles an hour. The speed attained on the rural post lines is, as yet, unequal and insufficient. But arrangements are being made for bringing these lines into an efficient state.

Number of Post Offices.

116. At the close of last year there were 30 imperial post offices in these Provinces. There are now 45 permanent imperial offices, besides 20 experimental offices in rural towns, where School-masters have, for a small remuneration, undertaken the duties of Post-master. There are about 108 rural post offices, superintended by the Police department.

Correspondence.

117. The total number of letters, newspapers and parcels received for delivery and despatch at the imperial post offices of the Central Provinces, exclusive of through mails, was, for the year 1866-67,—

Received for delivery	1,668,640
Received for despatch	1,794,236

The number of letters passing through the rural post offices was 506,503 for the year 1866-67, as compared with 632,803 in the foregoing year. Of these last, the majority were service letters; only 189,752 were private letters. The proportion borne by undelivered letters to the total number of private covers carried by the rural post is still considerable, though it is smaller than in the preceding year.

Expenditure.

118. The expenditure on the Postal department in the Central Provinces is returned thus:—

Imperial postal lines	Rs.	3,42,500
Rural (or local) lines	"	34,891
Total	"	3,77,391

The charges are swelled by the cost of carrying heavy mails between Europe and Northern India, while the receipts on account of these mails are credited in other Provinces.

Mails conveyed by Railway.

119. The further extension of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway line between Bhosawul and Jubbulpore; and the opening of the railway between Allahabad and Jubbulpore will materially improve the efficiency, and lessen the cost of the postal service in these Provinces. The full benefit of the improved communications will not, however, be reaped by the Postal department, until sorting carriages shall be introduced on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway.

New Post Office Act.

120. The new Post Office Act (XIV. of 1866) came into force at the beginning of the year 1866-67. Its provisions have been on several occasions usefully enforced against persons obstructing the mails, and against officials of the Postal department. The modified rules for franking letters on "Her Majesty's service," have been in force since August last.

Epizootic among Mail horses.

121. During the summer and autumn of 1866 an extraordinary and incurable disease attacked the mail horses on the road between Jubbulpore and Nagpore. During a few months 512 horses died. As the whole establishment of horses on that line consisted in 1866 of only 280 horses, it follows that at several stages two or more sets of horses must have died. A special enquiry, with the aid of a competent Veterinary Surgeon, was made. It appeared that the disease was of a new form; and that it was most virulent at the stages near to certain small streams. It was also manifest that the Local Officers had done their best to combat the disease; and that notwithstanding the death of so many horses, the mails were kept running. Arrangements have been made for removing the stages from places which seem most liable to infection; and for supplying good drinking water at all stables. The disease has, happily, not reappeared during the summer of 1867.

CHAPTER VI.

ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH.

122. A Telegraph office was finally opened at Hingunghat in the Wurdah district early in the year, much to the convenience of the Cotton trade. Within a few days of the opening of this branch line, a cotton telegram from Hingunghat was despatched to Liverpool and reached its destination in thirty eight hours. An entirely new line has been constructed with Hamilton's standards and insulators along the road between Nagpore and Chanda with a branch to Hingunghat. The line between Jubbulpore and Seonee has been similarly reconstructed, and that between Seonee and Nagpore was thoroughly repaired. Between Jubbulpore and Mirzapore the line will be taken down after the rains and a new double line on standards will be erected along the railway to Allahabad; meanwhile the old line has been repaired. From Chanda to Seroncha the standards are on the ground and will be set up before the rainy season of 1868, the old line meanwhile being kept in repair. From Seroncha to Doomagoodium, the head-quarters of the Navigation Works on the Godavery, the line is in good order; while from Seroncha to Wurrungul and Hyderabad (Deccan) the old line is under repair, and will be reconstructed with Hamilton's standards during the open season of 1868. Generally the Telegraph service has been gaining in efficiency and is well supervised in these Provinces.

CHAPTER VII.

FINANCIAL.

Statement of revenue and expenditure.

123. A Financial statement prepared by the Deputy Accountant General will be found appended to this report. It shows under the several heads the totals of receipt and expenditure. In comparing the figures now presented with those appended to last year's report, it must be borne in mind that the year 1866-67 comprised only eleven months. In respect of land tax, and Pandhari (house tax), the demand for eleven months was equal to a full year's revenue; but in respect of the remaining items of revenue, such as Customs, Stamps, Excise, Forests, Miscellaneous, the receipts fell short by one-twelfth of the sum which would have been realized in a full year of twelve months.

Comparison of receipts for the last two years.

124. From a perusal of the statement it will be seen that the receipts under the several heads of "Imperial Revenue" amount to Rs. 1,04,42,156 (£1,044,315). In the foregoing year the amount stood at Rs. 99,00,655 (£990,065). The receipts of the year 1866-67 thus exceed those of 1865-66, by Rs. 5,42,501 (£54,250). The percentage of increase, namely, six per cent, is thus exactly the same as last year. It should be noted here that, under the head of land revenue there was, so to speak, a windfall of five lakhs (£50,000), which will not recur in future years. But then, on the other hand, all the main heads of revenue excepting land tax show the receipts for eleven months instead of twelve. The several heads of revenue, having been fully noticed in the foregoing Chapter II, require no further remark here.

Local Fund receipts.

125. The Local Funds' income, being the receipts for eleven months only, falls short of the revenue for the preceding year. The total receipts for the year 1866-67 amount to Rs. 16,75,664 (£167,566), as compared with Rs. 17,07,613 (£170,761) in the year 1865-66. The decrease, however, instead of being one-twelfth, or eight per cent, is only Rs. 32,045 (£3,204), or about one and half per cent. If the year 1866-67 had been a full year of twelve months, its Local Fund receipts would show considerable increase over the income of the preceding year.

Total Public Income.

126. Taking the Revenue and Local Fund receipts together, the total public income for the year 1866-67 was Rs. 1,21,54,864 (£1,215,486). But the sum of Rs. 1,23,722 (£12,372) as explained in a note to the appended state-

ment, is shown both under Revenue and under Local Fund receipts. A deduction on this account having been made, the net public income of the year 1866-67 is Rs. 1,20,31,142 (£1,203,114), as compared with Rs. 1,15,12,916 (£1,151,291) in the preceding year. The ratio of increase over last year's income is thus about 4 per cent.

Forest Revenue is not fully shown.

127. It may be remarked here, that the circumstance of the Government Public Works department having taken the bulk (Rs. 1,39,000 worth) of the timber brought out of the Government Forests during the year, has resulted in this sum (nearly a lakh and a half of rupees) being omitted from the financial receipts of the year. The rules of the Account department prohibit inter-departmental cash payments. And therefore this sum, though it may perhaps be fairly considered an item of forest revenue, is not shown on the revenue side of the accounts.

Expenditure of the year 1866-67.

128. The total expenditure for the year 1866-67 (inclusive of all Civil and Political charges, but exclusive of charges for the Army and Public Works,) amounted to Rs. 58,30,233 (£583,023), as compared with Rs. 64,93,017 (£649,301) in the foregoing year. This decrease of expenditure, to the amount of 6½ lakhs (£62,500), is in part due to the shortness of the financial year 1866-67. But the decrease is not wholly due to this cause; for the expenditure under the headings of "land revenue", "allowances and refunds", "political pensions and allowances," has largely decreased. On the other hand, the working charges of revenue departments, such as the "Customs" and the "Forests" have increased. The expenditure also on "Education," "Medical department," that is dispensaries and the like, has also increased. Still there has, on the whole, been net reduction of charges to the amount of more than a lakh of rupees (£10,000) a year. And this result has been effected in a year, during which arrangements for putting all the grades of the public service on a better footing have been carried out; and during a year when the charges for compensation on account of dearness of provisions have been greater than they ever were before. It is to be borne in mind, however, that the disbursements of the year 1865-66, with which the accounts now under consideration are being compared, included certain charges of an extraordinary character, which have not recurred in the year 1866-67.

General review of official salaries.

129. It may be well to describe particularly in this place the several measures, which have been taken during the year 1866-67, for raising the salaries and improving the status of the various grades of the public service. The main ground on which these increases of salary were sanctioned, was that the cost of living and the price of necessaries had risen, throughout the Central Provinces, nearly cent per cent since the time when the salaries of public servants were last fixed.

Detailed account of the revision under its several heads.

130. The changes which have been made, or are under consideration, may be grouped under the five heads of—

(1). Salaries of Officers, such as Deputy Commissioners and Assistant Commissioners.

(2). Salaries of vernacular clerks in the Judicial and Revenue departments, at the head-quarters of divisions and districts.

(3). Wages of Police Constables, of Customs' (preventive) employés, of prison guards, of messengers, and the lower grades of office servants.

(4). Salaries of Tehseeldars (sub-divisional officers), and their clerks in the Revenue and Judicial departments.

(5). Salaries of English clerks in certain offices.

Deputy Commissioners and Assistant Commissioners.

First, with reference to the salaries of Deputy Commissioners. The scale of pay for these Officers in the Central Provinces had been fixed in the year 1861, on the same scale as existed in the similarly constituted Provinces of Oudh and the Punjab. But in the year 1865-66, the rates of salary for Deputy Commissioners and Assistant Commissioners in these Provinces were raised on general considerations. When the pay of Deputy Commissioners and Assistants in the Punjab and Oudh were raised, it became clear that this Administration could not command or retain the services of good Civil Officers, unless it could pay them at a rate more nearly approaching to that which obtained in other Provinces. On the other hand it was also obvious that the revenue and the importance of some of the districts in the Central Provinces were below the average of districts in the other Provinces above mentioned. Accordingly, a modified scale of salaries was sanctioned for the Deputy Commissioners and Assistant Commissioners in these Provinces, assigning to the more important Deputy Commissionerships the improved rate of pay obtaining in the Punjab, while it retained a lower scale of salary for the smaller districts. The total extra charge which resulted to the State from these changes amounted to Rs. 59,200 (£5,920) a year.

Vernacular clerks in Deputy Commissioner's Offices.

Secondly, with reference to the salaries of vernacular clerks in Judicial and Revenue offices. The existing scale of salaries had been cast five years ago, during the first year of the Central Provinces' Administration. Since that time the amount of judicial and other business to be done had more than doubled; increased exactness and accuracy were required of all public servants. And, while a higher standard of qualifications was insisted on, the purchasing power of salaries allowed had fallen cent per cent. The price of corn was ruling at considerably more than double the average price of the decade from 1852 to 1862; wages of other kinds had risen, so much so that

16 rupees the average monthly salary of the lowest class of vernacular clerks, barely equalled the monthly earnings of an average mason, bricklayer or carpenter. It was apprehended that these clerks, through whose hands much important business of various kinds passed, would resort to corrupt practices, and might make illicit gains; and that the subordinates of our Judicial courts and Revenue offices would become demoralized. Accordingly, the salaries of this important class of public servants were revised, in conformity with a general scheme drawn up by Mr. John Strachey, the present Chief Commissioner of Oudh. The result of this revision was a general enhancement of salaries, and the reduction of a considerable number of subordinate offices. The average salary of the lowest class of vernacular clerks (mohurrirs) is now 27 rupees a month. The total extra cost consequent on this revision is Rs. 37,680 (£3,768) a year. As a set off against this increased expenditure, there will be an annual credit of about Rs. 30,000 (£3,000) under the head of savings from the process server's (tulubana) fund.

Compensatory allowances to Constables and others.

Thirdly, in regard to the wages of Constables, of Jail guards, of the lower grades of the Customs (preventive) service. There was no doubt, but that public servants of these grades had, during the last two years of high prices, been much pinched. There had been some complaint among them; and there was ground for apprehending that this class of employés might become demoralized, unless some special steps were taken to place them and their families above actual want. At the same time the finances would not admit of any general raising of the wages of this class of Government servants; for any increase of the kind would from its nature be permanent, while the dearness of provisions might hereafter be mitigated. Accordingly, it was decided to apply to these grades, rules somewhat similar to the regulations of the Military department, whereby a soldier's pay is raised when the price of corn is above a certain moderate rate. The concession of this boon gave great relief to all the employés it affected. And during the summer and autumn of the year 1866, prices ranged so high that compensation became everywhere payable. Since December 1866, however, there has, thanks to an abundant harvest, been a general fall of prices. And extra wages on account of dearness of provisions have been payable only in two or three exceptionally dear districts. If prices were to continue at the level of the autumn of 1866, the extra expenditure in these Provinces on account of compensatory allowances would amount to about Rs. 1,25,000 (£12,500) a year. As circumstances now stand, the extra charge on this account will not, it is hoped, exceed Rs. 20,000 (£2,000).

Salaries of sub-divisional Establishments.

Fourthly, with regard to the salaries of Tehseeldars (Native sub-divisional officers), and their vernacular clerks. A Tehseeldar, in Provinces like these, is the sub-collector of his sub-division; he is also the Civil Judge of the Court of the first instance; and he is the local Magistrate within his jurisdiction. He is also the Vice-president of

Municipal Committees; and the director and supervisor of all executive and administrative matters within his sub-division. The necessity for raising the pay and improving the status of these subordinate Civil Judges has for some time been admitted. Very recently, the Stamp Laws have been modified; and the scale of stamp fees in judicial matters has been raised, in order that an enhanced stamp revenue might cover the cost of a scheme for bettering the position of subordinate Judges. A proposition is now before the Supreme Government for giving effect to these views by raising the salaries of Tehseeldars (sub-divisional officers), and recasting the staff of vernacular clerks on the principle of Mr. Strachey's scheme, adverted to in paragraph 126 of this Chapter. If Mr. Temple's recommendations on this head are approved, the extra charge involved will be Rs. 55,992 (£5,599) per annum. As a set off against this expenditure, must be reckoned the anticipated increase of the Stamp revenue under the new Law.

Temporary increase of pay to English clerks.

Fifthly, it was found that the dearness of living pressed very hardly upon the lower grades of English clerks, many of whom are Europeans and Eurasians. Persons of this class cannot, from their way of living, subsist on the salaries, which are a competence for Natives of India of a corresponding grade. The Supreme Government accordingly, on Mr. Temple's recommendation, sanctioned, temporarily, compensatory allowances to certain classes of English clerks, whose salaries do not exceed Rs. 100 (£10) per mensem. The total cost of these temporary increases of salary amounts to about Rs. 8,481 (£ 848) per annum.

Local Fund expenditure.

131. The expenditure under the several headings of the "Local Funds" has been fully in proportion to the receipts. The total disbursements from local funds for the year 1866-67, amounted to Rs. 17,03,045 (£170,304), as compared with an expenditure of Rs. 15,17,826 (£151,782) in the foregoing year.

Audit and Account.

132. The post audit system continues to work smoothly and efficiently. The new system of accounts was introduced successfully during the year. It appears to fulfil the intentions of its framers; inasmuch as all transactions are audited, posted up, and finally brought to account within eight weeks of the date of their occurrence.

Bank of Bengal.

133. The branches of the Bank of Bengal at Nagpore and Jubbulpore continue to transact with efficiency the business of the two chief treasuries in these Provinces. The branch of the Bank of Bombay, which for some time carried on business at Nagpore, has been closed. A sub-branch of the Bank of Bengal was opened at the Cotton mart of Hingunghat during the cotton season, and was of much convenience to the trade.

often doubtful, be omitted, the increase in the totals of heinous crimes becomes inappreciable. And, as was observed in last year's Report, the proportion of heinous crimes to the whole population, being one to every 33,659 souls, is small.

Murder.

24. Out of the 88 murders, 18 were committed for the sake of plunder. The number of murders of children for the sake of their ornaments decreased to four cases during the year 1866. In former years there had been evidences of increase in this class of crime, so that the decrease from 12 offences under this head in the year 1865 to four cases in the year under report, is cause for satisfaction.

Dacoity.

25. There has been a considerable increase in the number of dacoities. But most of these cases partook truly of the nature of theft or highway robbery, and the *real* cases of dacoity (in the aggravated sense of the term) during the year 1866 were very few. The Officiating Judicial Commissioner, Mr. R. E. Egerton, reports that "proportionally fewer persons participated "in each dacoity this year than last year, and a proportionately larger "number of persons have been convicted in each case." Still there were some cases of really bad (though not the worst) type, which clearly indicate that the embers of gang robbery are smouldering, and not yet extinguished. Looking, however, to the increased proportion of convictions in the cases which did occur; to the considerable number of cases of former years which were hunted up and came on for trial during the year; to the garnering and gathering in of old professional robbers by the special dacoity agency, till but a few more of these people remain to be gleaned,—we may hope that the Police will succeed in stamping out this crime altogether.

Witchcraft.

26. In last year's Report reference was made to the popular belief in witchcraft, which prevails in the eastern districts, and which at times results in the persecution, maltreatment, and even the murder of supposed witches. The Judicial Commissioner in his annual Report for 1866 writes that "this "belief still retains its hold on the minds of the people. It is always a "matter of great difficulty, and one requiring time to eradicate religious "superstition; but the severe punishments awarded by our Courts in all "cases in which superstitious belief has resulted in violence to individuals, "have not been without effect. Three murders of supposed witches "occurred during the year; but the number of offences committed in "consequence of this belief has greatly decreased."

Minor crimes.

27. In the number of minor offences against property there is a slight increase. But the percentage of increase is very much smaller than it was for the preceding year. Under the heads of theft and house-breaking, the returns

for the last three years have been as follows:—

	Number of reported cases.
1864	16,163
1865	17,695
1866	18,243

It has on occasions been remarked that, when an Indian Province comes under regular British rule, crimes of this sort do generally increase. Various explanations for the phenomenon have been offered; one among others being, that the increase is not real, but merely apparent, and is due to increased care in reporting crime. However this may be, the criminal returns for the year 1866 would seem to show that the increase in minor crimes against property need not be progressive. In the four districts of the Nagpore Commissionership, the most populous and important tracts in these Provinces, lesser crimes of this sort are considerably (22 per cent.) fewer for the year 1866 than they were for the year 1865. This diminution is not, however, universal; for in the less populous and wilder Commissionership of Chutteesgurh, thefts and house-breakings have increased during this year by nearly 33 per cent. Much of the improved result in the Nagpore Division is attributed, probably with justice, to the more careful enforcement of the law against bad characters, or persons who, having no respectable means of living, do in reality subsist by petty crime. The attention of Magistrates, of the Police, and of landholders, has been specially drawn to the necessity for keeping watch upon people of this kind.

Recovery of stolen property.

28. The proportion recovered out of the aggregate of stolen property was 33 per cent. in the year 1866, as compared with 31 per cent. and 33 per cent. in the two years next preceding. The declared total value of property stolen during the year was Rs. 4,43,533 (£44,353), against Rs. 4,66,132 (£46,613) last year.

29. The reported cases of cattle theft continue at about the same number as last year; viz., 1,020 cases in the year 1866, against 1,012 in the year 1865. The frequency of this crime has alternated much in the several districts; it has increased in the less populous districts, while it has diminished considerably in the better cultivated tracts.

Petty complaints.

30. The number of complaints in cases not cognizable by the Police has stood at nearly the same figure for the last three years, thus—

	Number of complaints.
1864	11,140
1865	11,448
1866	11,167

The percentage of convictions continues to be about 50 per cent. on the whole. The recent amendment of the Stamp law may perhaps cause a diminution in the number of complaints and a concomitant increase in the percentage of convictions.

31. Turning now, *secondly*, to the action of the Courts. The despatch of business in the magisterial Courts continues to be prompt; in some districts where the criminal work is heaviest, nothing is left to be desired in this respect. Out of 41,905 persons for trial during the year, there were only 209 under trial at its close. The average duration of the several classes of trials was—

Despatch of business.

In cases sent up by the Police	3 days.
In cases taken up on complaint	8 „
In cases committed to the Sessions Courts ..	48 „
In appeals to Commissioners, as Sessions Judges	17 „

32. The results of criminal trials during the year may be thus shown:—

(1). Of the total number of persons arrested or summoned in cases cognizable by the Police, 73 per cent. were convicted or committed to the Sessions in the year 1866, against a percentage of 72½ in the previous year.

(2). In cases instituted before the Magistrates on complaint, without the intervention of the Police, 63 per cent. of the persons summoned or arrested were convicted in the year 1866, as compared with 62 per cent. in the previous year.

(3). Out of 257 persons committed to the Sessions Courts for trial during the year 1866, 66 per cent. were convicted, against a percentage of 68 in the previous year.

(4). 634 appeals against the orders of Magistrates of the different grades were preferred in the year 1866, against 637 appeals in the preceding year. In 429 cases the orders of the Magistrates were upheld; in 74 they were modified; and in 114 they were reversed. 17 appeals were undecided at the close of the year.

The Officiating Judicial Commissioner, Mr. R. E. Egerton, considers these results to be, on the whole, satisfactory; and to be an improvement on what has heretofore been achieved.

Analysis of punishments.

33. The manner in which punishments were inflicted may be thus shown:—

Out of 28,708 persons convicted during the year—

151	persons were sentenced to imprisonment, whipping, and fine.
1,101	„ „ „ imprisonment and whipping.
1,768	„ „ „ imprisonment and fine.
2,937	„ „ „ imprisonment only.
4,685	„ „ „ whipping only.
18,066	„ „ „ fine only.

For each person sentenced to the several kinds of punishment, the average term of imprisonment was 7 months,—very nearly the same as the foregoing year; the average amount of fine was 7½ rupees (15 shillings)

for the year 1866, against an average of 10½ rupees (£1-1-0) in the year 1865; the average number of stripes was 15, as compared with an average of 16 stripes to each person whipped in the preceding year. The total amount of fines imposed during the year 1866 amounted to Rupees 1,68,364 (£16,836), of which 75 per cent. were realized, as compared with 70 per cent. of realizations in the year 1865. Out of the fines, Rupees 16,281 (£1,628) were ordered to be paid as compensation to sufferers.

The Officiating Judicial Commissioner considers that the severity of punishments is by no means excessive. He also records it to be the almost universal opinion among Magistrates, that "whipping" is "efficacious as a punishment, and that it is dreaded far more than "imprisonment by the criminal classes generally."

Procedure.

34. In respect of the procedure and the general conduct of the criminal Courts, the Officiating Judicial Commissioner, Mr. R. E. Egerton, writes:—"The procedure of the Courts has continued to perfect itself. I am "satisfied, from personal inspection of numerous cases, that the proce-"dure of the Courts may, without exaggeration, be called good." The Officiating Judicial Commissioner goes on to say, that special attention must now be paid to instructing Magistrates in the law of evidence.

Honorary Magistrates.

35. There are now 62 Honorary Magistrates at work in the several districts of these Provinces. These gentlemen decided 4,464 cases during the year 1866, as compared with 4,114 in the preceding year. Many of these cases are taken up on complaints which injured parties lay, of their own motion, before the Honorary Magistrates' Courts. Most of these Native gentlemen are very popular as Magistrates; and they all are persons of rank and position in the country. The Judicial Commissioner reports that "they have exercised the judicial powers conferred on them in a most praiseworthy manner, and have afforded valuable aid in the criminal administration."

Section V.—Police.

36. As in previous reports, it may be well to offer a statement of the strength and cost of the Police in these Provinces as they stood during the year:—

	Men.	*Rs.*	£
Regular Police, paid from the general revenues	7,516	12,38,318	123,832
Municipal Police, paid from local funds	1,458	1,36,933	13,693
Total	8,974	13,88,060	138,805

This shows a reduction of about 80 men, and an increase in cost amounting to about Rs. 45,000 (£4,500). The continued dearness of provisions necessitated the expenditure of considerable sums in the shape of temporary extra pay and increased horse allowance. Effort was made to meet the extra charge by reducing the numbers of the Police in some districts. But it was not found possible to effect savings which should countervail the whole of the extra outlay. The price of food is now somewhat cheaper than last year. If this comparative cheapness continues, the Police expenditure may perhaps be kept under.

General results of Police work.

37. The general action of the Police on crime reported during the year 1866 was as follows:—

(1). Of the 23,888 offences reported, the Police investigated 12,522, or 52 per cent. of the whole. The remainder were petty thefts or burglaries in which the aggrieved parties did not wish for Police aid.

(2). The Police made arrests in 11,106, or 84 per cent. of the cases they investigated; and the number of persons arrested during the year was 19,196; of whom 87 per cent. were sent before the Magistrates for trial.

(3). Out of the total number of persons sent up by the Police for trial, 86 per cent. were convicted; 6 per cent. were acquitted; and 8 per cent. were released without trial.

Heinous crimes.

38. Under the more heinous heads of crime, the action of the Police during the year 1866 may be compared with the results of the previous year, thus:—

OFFENCES.	Of cases reported, apprehensions were made in		Of persons sent up to the Magistrates for trial, there were convicted or committed	
	Cases per cent.		Persons per cent.	
	1865.	1866.	1865.	1866.
Murder	92·1	96·1	98·2	96·1
Dacoity	81·2	86·5	100	88·4
Robbery with hurt	63·6	88·8	100	100
Robbery	80·8	81·3	86·5	88·1

There has thus been improvement on the results of the preceding year.

39. There has been a considerable increase in dacoity over the number of cases reported in the year 1865. The reported cases of dacoity for the last five years stand thus:—

Dacoity.

In	1862 there were	50 dacoities.
„	1863 „	56 „
„	1864 „	31 „
„	1865 „	20 „
„	1866 „	31 „

This increase is certainly to be regretted; but on the other hand, there were certain countervailing circumstances about the dacoities of the year 1866. Nearly all of them were of a mild type. Though they were undoubtedly dacoities, according to the strict definition of the term, yet they were not violent gang robberies committed by professional dacoits. For instance, two of the crimes shown under this head were only cattle lifting, in which the stolen animals wandered back to their owners; one was a robbery of a melon garden: only one of the cases was attended with severely aggravating circumstances. Indeed in no one of the cases was murder committed, or was any one seriously injured. In these 31 cases 235 persons were apprehended and 157 were convicted. The special dacoity agency sent up for trial during the year 27 old offenders, out of whom nineteen were convicted and punished, most of them notoriously bad characters. On the whole, there seems to be little ground for apprehension that this particular class of violent crime,—once unhappily rife in the Nagpore country—is not being continuously kept down. It is the general belief that there are now no gangs of professional dacoits in these Provinces who live by crime.

40. In respect of the minor kinds of crime against property, there seems cause for fearing that our Police system is not sufficiently repressive. Hitherto the Police have not investigated offences of this class, unless the injured persons solicited Police aid, or unless the property stolen exceeded fifty rupees in value. The result of this procedure was, that very few petty offences of this kind were, in the rural districts at any rate, enquired into. In towns and places where there were resident Magistrates, aggrieved persons usually ask for a Police investigation into their losses. The practical consequence has been, that in towns and cities petty theft and house-breaking has very largely decreased; while in villages, and over the country generally, these offences have considerably increased. Accordingly Mr. Temple decided to make a Police investigation obligatory for all reported offences wherein the value of the stolen property may exceed twenty rupees. Hereafter the limit may still further be lowered. The Police are instructed to encourage people to court an investigation into crimes against property. And it is hoped that in the course of a few years some success may be obtained in the repression of minor offences against property.

Increase in petty theft and house-breaking.

Measures of repression.

Treatment of bad characters.

41. In view to the repression of petty crime much attention is being paid to registering and watching persons suspected of living by crime. From time to time notoriously bad characters are brought by the Police before the Magistrates, and prosecuted according to law. A considerable proportion of the persons thus placed on their trial are acquitted. But the mere fact of such proceedings being instituted has a deterrent effect upon habitual offenders.

Landholders' police duties.

42. Landholders all over the Provinces are becoming more and more alive to their police responsibilities. Nearly all the Magistrates and Police officers acknowledge the material aid rendered by landholders in reporting crime, in tracing out and apprehending criminals, and in watching bad characters.

General conduct of the Police.

43. Regarding the general conduct of the Police and the share they have taken in the criminal administration during the year, the Officiating Judicial Commissioner, Mr. R. E. Egerton, gives satisfactory testimony. He writes "the Police have proved themselves efficient in "dealing with the various descriptions of crime. Their want of "detective ability has been in some instances commented on, but in this "particular also the general result set forth in the criminal returns "of the year shows that improvement has been made."

"The Magisterial and Police authorities now co-operate with the "greatest heartiness; and the Police force is generally well-behaved and "popular in the districts. Their knowledge of criminal procedure has "greatly increased; and the entire Force seems to be advancing in general "efficiency."

Violent deaths.

44. The Police returns give the subjoined statistics of violent or accidental deaths in the Central Provinces:—

	During the year	
	1865.	1866.
From falling into wells, tanks, or rivers	904	1,010
From wild beasts	546	699
From snake-bites	651	506
From the falling of walls or houses ..	65	75
From other causes	427	485
From suicide	341	372
TOTAL ..	2,934	3,147

The number of deaths from snake-bites has considerably decreased. This satisfactory circumstance may be, in part at least, due to the very

large destruction of these reptiles, which has ensued upon the sanction of rewards for killing the most deadly kinds of snakes. It is much to be regretted that, notwithstanding the hundreds of noxious animals destroyed yearly, there should have been an increase in the number of persons killed by wild beasts.

Destruction of noxious animals.

45. The returns showing the number of wild beasts destroyed during the last two years may be abstracted thus:—

	During the year	
	1865.	1866.
Tigers	543	543
Panthers and Leopards ...	760	982
Bears	392	512
Wolves	168	108
Hyænas	387	433
Snakes	...	6,010*

for which rewards to the amount of Rupees 49,820 (£4,982) were paid. Among the tigers killed were 13 man-eaters which used to live by destroying human life. A few packs of man-eating wolves have recently been committing ravages in tracts of country near Jubbulpore. Special rewards have been sanctioned for the destruction of these animals, and it is hoped that they will in time be killed off. Heretofore the wolves of these parts have shown no habit of carrying off children, as is the case with wolves of Northern India.

Section VI.—Jails.

Jail buildings.

46. Good progress was made during the year in the completion of the four central jails sanctioned for these Provinces. The central jail at Nagpore is the most advanced, and requires only the finishing of certain supplementary buildings and curtain walls to be entirely taken over from the Public Works Department. It has however been in occupation for more than a year. The central jail at Jubbulpore is about half complete, and is being rigorously pushed on. That at Raepore had been so far completed, in respect of the more necessary buildings, as to be fit for the accommodation of about half its full complement of prisoners. The central jail at Hoshungabad, which was commenced in the season 1865, has four wards and some out-offices completed, and the remainder of the works are well in hand. The nine district jails are in a good state of repair. There were four lock-ups under construction—that at Sironcha the

* This represents the number of snakes killed during the second half of the year 1866, previously rewards were not given for their destruction.

head-quarters of the Upper Godavery district had been finished and occupied; and that at Belaspore was in a good state of repair. A satisfactory increase in the number of prisoners employed in the construction and repair of these buildings has also been attained. Out of a daily average of 3,438 prisoners available for work, there were 1,287 prisoners engaged in building and repairing jails during the year 1866; whereas in the year previous, out of a larger number of available working prisoners there was only a daily average of 784 so employed.

Number of prisoners.

47. The number of prisoners admitted into jail during the year stood at about the same figure as in the year previous. During the last three years the admissions were, respectively, in—

1864	...	...	11,252 prisoners.
1865	...	...	9,935 „
1866	...	...	9,946 „

But the daily average number of prisoners in jail was somewhat less than in the year previous, being only 3,749 against 4,016. The proportion of prisoners admitted on reconviction was 11 per cent. of the whole. The admissions of juveniles were in excess of last year. But as the arrangements for segregating, educating, and attempting the reform of young offenders, are now complete, the incarceration of juvenile criminals is less open to objection than heretofore.

Conduct of prisoners.

48. The conduct of the prisoners in jail—judging from the number punished, namely 659, out of the 13,598 prisoners who passed through the jails during the year,—has been good; particularly when it is remembered that the task-work system is rigidly enforced and breaches of jail discipline are summarily punished. Testimony has been given to the continued good conduct of the convict guards, warders, and work overseers appointed under the "good conduct system." This system will become more generally introduced, as the completion of the central jails progresses. The number of prisoners who escaped from jail was 18, of whom nine were recaptured.

Health of prisoners.

49. The percentage of sick to the daily average number of prisoners in jail was 6·84, showing a slight improvement on the previous year, when it was 7·67. But the reduction in the prison death rate is still more gratifying. During the last three years the death rate has been:—

In	1864	...	7·64 per cent.
„	1865	...	12·15 „
„	1866	...	7·44 „

Cholera appeared in 8 of the 18 jails, and caused 21 per cent. of the total deaths. The largest number of deaths from cholera occurred in the Raepore jail. Out of an aggregate of 60 deaths in all our jails from this cause, 46 occurred at Raepore. The usual precautions of

immediate removal into camp, improvement in diet, change in the routine of labour, and the like, were promptly taken; and except in Raepore, where the epidemic was of a virulent type, these measures met with the most successful results. During the year 1866 the prison dietary was revised, and the scale of diet was raised. Jail officers were also empowered to issue extra rations of a specially nutritive kind when epidemic disease was threatening. The effect of these reforms is considered to have been good.

Sanitary state of jails.

50. The sanitary condition of the jails generally is highly reported of by the Inspector; and overcrowding has been prevented by immediate transfers of prisoners to other jails. Such transfers are mainly made to the central jails, wherein the accommodation is becoming more and more ample as they progress towards completion. The "dry earth system" of conservancy continues to maintain its character as one of the best reforms introduced into prison management.

Financial working of jails.

51. One remarkable feature of the year's jail administration, and one mainly due to the establishment of central jails—is the increase in the earnings of the prisoners employed on manufactures and extra-mural public works. In the previous year these earnings amounted to Rupees 39 per annum per prisoner employed; this year the returns give receipts—

From manufactures sold	Rs.	36,093
From building new jails	„	81,050
From employment on roads and other extra-mural labour	„	2,512
From articles made for prison use ..	„	10,727
From value of prison labour employed on menial offices in jail	„	13,256

making a total of Rs. 1,43,638 (£14,363) or Rupees 53 (£5-6s) per head per prisoner employed.

52. The average cost per prisoner under all headings stood as follows for the last three years:—

1864	Rs. 50-13-7	(£ 5-1-8)
1865	„ 57-14-7	(£ 5-15-10)
1866	„ 67-14-6	(£ 6-15-10)

But in the average net cost of each prisoner, that is, his cost after deducting the profits, direct and indirect, accruing from his labour, there has been improvement, as will be seen from the following comparison:—

In 1864 it was Rs.	28½	(£2-16-6)
1865 „ „	25	(£2-10-0)
1866 „ „	38	(£3-16-0)

Thuggee Institution at Jubbulpore.

53. The Thuggee School of Industry at Jubbulpore was in this year placed more immediately under the charge of this Administration; and from the Superintendent's and Inspectors' reports the following facts may be noted. There were 933 thugs and dacoits, men, women, and children, in the Institution during the year. The cost of supervision, of medical establishments, of subsistence, clothing, &c., for thug and dacoit approvers, amounted to Rupees 36,732. After paying for all expenses of thuggee prisoners, for wages to approvers, their sons and wives, for wages to hired workmen, and for a share of the cost of guards and establishments, the net profits of the Institution for the year 1866 were Rupees 24,996.

CHAPTER II.

REVENUE.

SECTION I.—LAND TAX.

Demand and collections of the year.

54. The demand on account of land tax for the year 1866-67 was Rs. 64,61,700 (£646,170), or Rs. 8,95,890 (£89,589) above the demand of the foregoing year. A part, namely four lakhs (£40,000), of this increase is the result of the revisions of the land revenue assessment; the remainder, or about five lakhs (£50,000), represents an item of land revenue which had for some years been allowed to stand over, but which was collected in the year 1866-67, with a view to squaring the accounts between Government and the landholding community. Out of the whole demand, Rs. 64,11,255 (£641,125) were collected; Rs. 31,934 (£3,193) were also collected on account of the outstanding balances of former years. The balances on account of land tax which remained uncollected at the close of the year 1866-67 amounted to Rs. 50,445 (£5,044); out of which Rs. 24,492 (£2,449) are realizable; the remainder being nominal items of demand, which are borne on the accounts until they are struck off under competent sanction. The *real* uncollected balance of land tax for the year 1866-67 thus amounted to about one-third per cent. on the total demand, as compared with one-half per cent. in the foregoing year.

Progress of the regular Settlement.

55. In last year's Report it was stated that the regular Settlement had been completed in five districts. By the end of the year 1866-67 the work of Settlement had come to a close in five more districts, namely Wurdah, Seonee, Jubbulpore, Bhundara and Nagpore. The Settlement of the Chindwara and Upper Godavery districts is approaching completion; when these are done, Settlement operations will be in progress only in the country of Chutteesgurh, and in the outlying and comparatively wild districts of Chanda, Nimar, and Mundla. In all the more populous and open parts of the country, Settlement work is complete; and the people have before them thirty years wherein they can make the most of the certainty of tenure and the fixity of demand which has been secured to them.

Assessment of the land tax.

56. The land tax of 10,080 villages or estates was regularly assessed during the year. The amount of the revised assessments was Rs. 7,11,136 (£71,114), or 40 per cent. above the land revenue which those estates formerly

paid. The revised assessments of the land tax for the ten districts of Nagpore, Wurdah, Bhundara, Jubbulpore, Saugor, Dumoh, Seonee, Hoshungabad, Nursingpore, and Baitool, were formally confirmed by Mr. Temple, for thirty years, shortly before he left this Administration. Care was taken that this final ratification of their engagements was duly made known to the landholders.

Record of rights in the land.

57. The business of investigating, deciding, and recording the several kinds of rights in the land, has been pushed on vigorously, yet carefully. By close supervision and frequent revision, effort has been made to guard against error, and to correct mistakes where they may have crept in. In districts where settlements have been completed, a copy of the record of rights and of the field survey of his estate is placed in the hands of every landholder. The people for the most part now fully understand their rights, and appreciate the value of the record which has been made over to them. The decision of superior rights has now been almost completed over the whole of the Central Provinces; but in seven or eight districts the investigation into, and record of subordinate rights is, as yet, incomplete. The subjoined figures show the number of persons whose landed rights had, in their different phases, been recorded up to the end of the year 1866-67 :—

	Number of persons.
Absolute proprietors of villages or shares of villages	52,472
Superior proprietors (Talookdars) of villages or shares of villages	1,323
Sub-proprietors of ditto ditto ...	2,237
Proprietors of their holdings	25,981
Hereditary cultivators. absolute ... ... about	135,000
Hereditary cultivators. conditional, that is 12 years' tenants, under Act X. of 1859, about	73,000
Tenants at will	537,698

Proprietary right patents.

58. It was found that in many districts the landholders had not fully realized the certainty and the permanence of their property in land. Notwithstanding all that could be said, the mass of the people could not divest themselves of the idea that, as the land tax was settled for thirty years, so their rights in the land were assured for only thirty years. Both the land tax, and their rights would, they persisted in thinking, come under revision at the end of the Settlement. To remove this doubt, Mr. Temple decided that at the close of the Settlement in each district, durable patents of proprietary right should be given to each proprietor. Such a patent was to declare that proprietary right in a particular village had been conferred, subject to payment of the Government demand and to recognition of subordinate rights, on the persons mentioned in the deed. These patents have now been engrossed on parchment in the English

language; they bear the Chief Commissioner's autograph and the Settlement Officer's signature. They have been made over to landholders in those districts where settlements are concluded. The patents are much valued by the people, as earnests that their rights are indeed permanent; and they are regarded in the light of title deeds.

Other operations of the Settlement.

59. The other stages of Settlement business are receiving careful attention in the districts where the work is as yet unfinished. Investigations into revenue free holdings (maafees) are nearly completed. The field measurements will be concluded in every district of the Central Provinces, except Sumbulpore, by the end of the present year. The excess waste rules have been everywhere carried out, and the waste lands thus marked off as State property extend over an area of twenty-four thousand square miles. The revision of the tributes (tukolee) payable by the Zemindars or Chiefs of the Wyngunga, Chutteesgurh, and Mahanuddy country, will soon be complete.

Records in revenue offices.

60. Now that Settlement operations have been completed in ten districts, and the valuable maps and papers prepared by the Settlement department have finally taken their place among the district records, special attention has been paid to arranging, on the most approved system, the records of revenue offices. In many districts this re-arrangement of records has been properly completed; in some the operation is still in progress. Advantage has been taken of the occasion to eliminate, under fixed rules, from the record-rooms all old papers which no longer possess interest, and serve no useful purpose.

Annual village papers.

61. Increased attention is being paid to the punctual and correct preparation, either by the landholders or by the village accountants, of the annual village papers. For the first year after the close of Settlement operations in each district a special agency has been engaged in helping the villagers to get their first set of papers correctly drawn up. This object has now been for the most part effected, and the prescribed papers for the villages of eight districts will have been by the prescribed date in the current year duly filed. In another year or so, the preparation and transmission of these important documents will have become an ordinary and easy branch of the routine duties of the landholding community.

Suits between landlord and tenant.

62. The number of suits laid in the Revenue courts is increasing, now that the Settlement courts are closed. The total number of cases decided under the rent laws in the eleven months, which make up the year 1866-67, was 8,320, as compared with 5,056 in the foregoing year. More than one-half of these cases were suits brought by landlords to recover arrears of rent. The amount of business of this kind coming before our courts may be expected largely to increase.

63. The total rain-fall of the year 1866-67 was rather below than above the average of former years. But the rains were particularly seasonable. The clouds came; the clouds held off; and the sun shone;—just at the very seasons the farmers would have chosen. And it has thus happened that the year 1866-67, coming after four years of poor harvests, has brought more than average, though not extraordinarily abundant autumn and spring crops. The only exceptional cases in which the season was at all inclement were, when heavy rains fell in March and April and injured the grain which still lay out on the threshingfloors. But such injury was comparatively trifling, and was confined to a few localities.

The harvests of the year.

Section II.—Other Taxes.

64. The rates of duty on salt and sugar continue to be the same as has been mentioned in former Reports. The Customs' line for the collection of these duties occupies the same position as was described in last year's Report; that is to say, it stretches from Saugor, on the extreme north, along the Nerbudda frontier, to Boorhanpore in the west; then across the Sautpoora hills and along the left bank of the Wurdah river, until it turns northward at a point below Chanda, and rounding the south of Chutteesgurh, ends in the wild broken country to the north-east of Sumbulpore. The total length of this line is about 900 miles.

Salt and sugar duties.

65. Though the rates of duty, and the situation of the Customs' cordon remain unaltered, yet the circumstances of the salt trade, in Kokanee or Bombay salt at any rate, have been greatly changed by the opening of the two lines of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway into the Central Provinces during the year 1866-67. Salt used to be brought to the Customs' posts in carts, or on pack bullocks, and could wait there a few days, without much inconvenience to anybody, until the duty could be paid, and the salt passed across the line. But the case is otherwise, now that the salt is laden on the railway waggons close to the pans where it is made, and is carried in those waggons across the Customs' cordon. Arrangements have now been made for placing Customs' officers at the two railway stations where the great bulk of the salt for the Central Provinces is booked; and for collecting from the consignors the duty on all salt intended for places in the Central Provinces. This plan secures the revenue, at the same time is convenient to salt dealers, and obviates the possibility of preventive arrangements interfering with the free working of the railway traffic. The completion of the railway to Nagpore will give a large impetus to the trade in Bombay salt, and will perhaps enable it to compete with Madras salt in the Wyngunga, and in a part of the

Railway borne salt trade.

Chutteesgurh country. But during the year under report the special arrangements for collecting the duty had not been matured; and the trade in Kokanee salt lulled during the months of February and March 1867. It recovered in May directly the dealers had felt the convenience of the new system of collecting duty; and it is brisker now (June 1867) than it ever was before. The temporary stoppage of import in the two months of February and March has materially affected the salt tax receipts of the year under report.

66. The total yield of the salt and sugar taxes for the last two years may be thus compared:—

	Rs.	£
1865-66.....	18,33,308	183,330
1866-67.....	16,06,528	160,653

Receipts of the year.

The collections for the eleven months of the year under report thus fall short of the preceding year's collections by 12 per cent. The whole of the decrease occurred in the Wurdah and Hoshungabad collectorates, which depend wholly on Kokanee salt. In the other collectorates the receipts of eleven months were either equal to or above the revenue of the previous year.

During the year 1865-66 there appeared evidence that a system of smuggling was springing up in Chutteesgurh where the preventive line was extended and weak. Prompt measures were taken to strengthen the line and to increase the number of preventive posts. The results of the steps then taken appear, so far as can yet be seen, to be that the revenue continued to increase, and smuggling was repressed.

Excise on liquor.

67. In last year's Report it was mentioned that the central distillery system of raising an excise revenue on liquor was to be introduced into the Chutteesgurh division. This system, which has for some years obtained in the Jubbulpore and Nerbudda divisions, differs from the old, or monopoly farm system, in that under the one, every gallon of liquor that is brewed pays duty, and so drink is not immoderately plentiful; while under the other the lessee of the monopoly makes and sells at cheap rates as much liquor as he possibly can. The evil of the monopoly farm system was considered to be, that it encouraged, and as some said, even gave birth to a general habit of excessive drinking. The improved system, whereby a full excise revenue is raised without giving any impetus to drunkenness, was introduced into the Chutteesgurh division in the beginning of the year 1866-67. During the current year it has, under the sanction of the Supreme Government, been extended to the Nagpore division; so that the excise revenue over the whole of these Provinces is now raised on the most approved system.

Total excise receipts.

68. The total excise revenue for the year 1866-67 amounted to Rs. 9,75,543 (£97,554), as compared with Rs. 9,27,996 (£92,799) in the preceding year. The receipts for the eleven months of the year under report were thus about Rs. 50,000 (£5,000), or more than 5 per cent. in excess of the

receipts for the twelve months of the foregoing year. Almost the whole of this increase accrued in the Nerbudda division, where the central distillery system is in force. In the six districts, where the monopoly farm system was in force, the excise revenue remained at the same figure as in the preceding year.

Improvements in the excise system.

69. Much attention has been paid during the year, more especially in the Nerbudda Division, to the improvement of the excise revenue, and to the adaptation of the central distillery system to the peculiar circumstances of the wilder tracts. It has been found that the liquor consumers of the open country can afford to pay even higher rates than heretofore for liquor; and accordingly the rates of still-head duty have been raised in such localities; while the licenses for retail sale in towns and populous tracts have been put up to auction and have fetched high prices. In this way the revenue has risen without any corresponding increase of drinking. In one district, that of Nimar, where the excise revenue has risen 35 per cent. during the year 1866-67, the increase has, in some tracts, been gained concurrently with an actual decrease in the amount of liquor consumed. Then again, in the hilly and thinly peopled tracts, where it would not pay to maintain a regularly constituted central distillery, there has been risk that the people might be stinted of the liquor, which at certain times of the year, and during hard labour of particular descriptions, is much needed. In localities of this kind single contract stills have been licensed; the average quantity of liquor that an ordinary still can turn out in a month is known, and the minimum fee, at which such a still is licensed, amounts to the sum which a moderate still-head duty on all the liquor distilled would yield.

Good effects of reduced consumption of liquor.

70. The moral and material benefits, which the central distillery system brings, continue to be as marked as heretofore. Not only European Officers, but also impartial Natives seem to be of opinion that drinking, as a habit, has much decreased; while the vice of drunkenness has nearly disappeared. The improved condition of the hill tribes, who formerly spent their substance in liquor, but who now hardly ever get drunk at all, is becoming more and more apparent.

Stamps.

71. The progressive increase of the stamp revenue has been referred to in former Reports. In the year 1864-65 the stamp income was 20 per cent. above that of the foregoing year; in the year 1865-66 the rate of increase was 15 per cent.; and during the current year the increase has been 10 per cent. But as the year under report comprised only eleven months, the actual income of the years 1866-67 and 1865-66 is about equal. The gross receipts of stamp revenue for the year 1866-67 were Rs. 5,73,433 (£57,343), as compared with Rs. 5,73,837 (£57,384) during the foregoing twelve months. The total number of non-official stamp

venders in these Provinces is now 1,199, and through their agency 77 per cent of the year's stamp revenue has been realized. The provisions of the stamp law are becoming more generally understood; and at the same time breaches of the law are being more systematically punished. Prosecutions for these offences against the revenue rose from 985 in the preceding year, to 1,199 in the year under report.

Pandhari tax.

72. The receipts on account of the Pandhari tax for the year 1866-67 were Rs. 3,32,968 (£33,297), as compared with Rs. 2,26,125 (£22,612) for the preceding year. This ancient impost has now been placed upon a firm, legal basis; and the periodical revision of the assessment lists, once in every two years, has been regularly provided for. At the end of the year 1866–67 the Indian Licenses Act was passed, and the Pandhari tax was made applicable to the whole of the Central Provinces, whereas it had hitherto been assessed only in the districts which formed the old Nagpore Province. The receipts from "assessed taxes" may therefore be expected to increase considerably during the current year.

Section III.—Total Revenues.

73. The actual imperial revenues for the years 1865-66 and 1866-67 may be thus compared:—

		1865-66.	1866-67.
Land Revenue	Rs	54,53,296	64,43,189
Customs (Salt &c.)	„	18,42,939	16,06,909
Excise on Spirits	„	9,44,894	9,90,875
Income Tax	„	71,582	0
Stamps	„	5,73,337	5,73,433
Forests	„	2,02,644	3,70,820
Pandhari (and Miscellaneous)	„	2,26,125	3,32,968
Total	Rs.	93,15,227	1,03,18,184
		(£931,522)	(£1,031,818)

74. It thus appears that the receipts for the eleven months of 1866-67 are ten lakhs of rupees (£100,000) in excess of the revenues of the preceding year. Of this increase, 5½ lakhs (£55,000), being on account of a past year's demand, must perhaps be reckoned as a wind-fall, which will not recur. But on the other hand there have been several items of decrease, which are abnormal and cannot be expected to occur again; for instance the customs revenue was 2½ lakhs (£25,000) short in 1866-67; there were Rs. 70,000 (£7,000) of income tax receipts in the

year 1865-66 and none at all in 1866-67. Then again the shortness of the year 1866-67 has had an effect in keeping down the excise, stamps, and forest receipts. So that, on the whole, if there had been no windfalls, and if the year 1866-67 had comprised twelve months, its revenues would probably have been about 101 lakhs (£1,010,000). The increase over the revenues of the preceding year would, therefore, have been at the rate of nine per cent.

CHAPTER III.

EDUCATION.

Educational machinery.

75. The machinery of the Educational department continues the same as has been described in previous Reports. The Department of Public Instruction has a staff consisting of—

1 Director,
3 Inspectors,

whose function is to control the educational funds, to inspect and supervise schools, wherever opened; to suggest and introduce improvements in the general educational system; and to manage the higher class schools and the normal schools. With the local civil authorities, aided by direction and supervision as described above, rests the business of managing all the lower class* schools, and of carrying out the system of popular education which has been introduced. Each Deputy Commissioner has a well paid Native Inspector to aid him in enforcing system in the lower class schools, and keeping both masters and scholars up to the mark.

General results of the year 1866.

76. Having thus briefly adverted to the constitution of the Department of Public Instruction, it may be well to compare the main educational statistics for the last two years, and then to notice the progress which has been effected in the several classes of schools. The figures for the year 1866-67 and the preceding year stand thus:—

	1866-67.	1865-66.
Number of schools of all classes	1,570	1,441
Number of scholars on the rolls	58,137	46,738
Average daily attendance	38,234	31,160
Expenditure from imperial revenues	Rs. 1,56,462 (£15,646)	Rs. 1,35,463 (£13,546)
Expenditure from local funds and voluntary contributions ..	Rs. 2,34,269 (£23,427)	Rs. 2,02,303 (£20,230)

It thus appears that the number of schools has increased 8 per cent., that the number of scholars has risen 19 per cent. during the year 1866-67. The cost per annum of each pupil on the rolls was Rs. 6-11-6 (thirteen shillings and five pence) in the year under report, compared with Rs. 6-15-5 (thirteen shillings and eleven pence) in the preceding

*It may be well to observe that the terms "high class" and "low class" refer to the kind of education given at the school, and not to the grade of society from which the pupils come.

year. The voluntary contributions, donations paid from private sources, and the income from school fees aggregated Rs. 87,589 (£8,759), for the year under report, against Rs. 53,667 (£5,367) in the preceding year.

77. Adverting now to the several classes of Government schools:—

High class schools.

There is one high class Government school in these Provinces, namely the Saugor school which has now been flourishing for more than thirty years. In last year's Report it was mentioned that several pupils from this school had passed the matriculation, or had graduated at the Calcutta University. During the year 1866-67 the alumni of the Saugor school were less successful. The higher and English classes made less progress. The vernacular classes, however, did well; and it is hoped that, when the new head master shall arrive from England, the Saugor school will recover its position as the best and most useful place of education in these Provinces. A Sanscrit professor has been added to the tutorial staff at Saugor, so as to enable pupils to work up for the Calcutta degree examination, at which some one or another of the classical languages of India must be taken up. Although the total number of pupils on the rolls of this school has fallen from 270 in the year 1865-66 to 240 in the year under report, yet the proportion of senior to junior students has greatly increased; while the average daily attendance, 94 per cent. of the number on the rolls, is now better than it has ever been before. The cost of educating each pupil at the Saugor school during the year was Rs. 68 (£6-16) of which Rs. 60 (£6) were chargeable to the imperial revenues.

78. Under the category of middle class schools come the zillah (district head-quarters) schools, and the town schools where Anglo-vernacular education is imparted. The number of zillah schools continues to be nine, as in former years. There were four Anglo-vernacular town schools in the year 1865-66; while at the end of the year 1866-67 there were fifteen schools of this grade, and several more have been opened since the close of the year. The total number of schools of this class is therefore 24 for the year 1866-67, as compared with 13 in the previous year. The returns for these middle class schools show 3,752 boys on the rolls in the year 1866-67, against 1,660 in the previous year; while the average daily attendance has risen from 1,362 to 2,606.

Middle class schools.

79. The sanctioned teaching staff of town schools provides for vernacular instruction. But during the last two years an active desire for English education has shown itself; and the townspeople of 15 towns had, by the end of the year 1866-67, subscribed sums, which, with an equal amount allowable from the imperial revenues under the grant-in-aid rules, have sufficed to pay for qualified English masters at their schools. This movement has hitherto been mainly confined to the Mahratta districts. Its result has been to place a

Desire for English education.

number of town schools on a better footing than they were before; to enlist the sympathies of the people still more in favour of schools to the support of which they themselves largely contribute; and to raise the number of pupils learning English from 1,526 to 1,970 throughout the Central Provinces. In the Mahratta districts of the Nagpore country, and in the Hindi-speaking tracts of Chutteesgurh, where there never was any really learned or highly educated class of men under the Native regime, it is considered a good and a healthy sign that English instruction should be so much sought after. At ancient centres of Hindoo and Mahomedan learning the case may be different. But in a country where neither Sanscrit, nor Persian, nor Arabic were ever taught; and where there was no classical learning of any kind, it seems well that English should be the vehicle for all high education.

Lower class schools.

80. Among lower class schools are reckoned the town and village schools, where vernacular education only is imparted. The statistics of these schools for the last two years may be thus compared:—

	1865-66.	1866-67.
Number of schools	572	658
Number of boys on the rolls ...	27,478	29,658

In last year's Report it was observed that these schools were not making so much progress as had been hoped for; that the proportion of boys in the lowest or alphabet classes was too large, and that boys stayed too long in those classes; and that the average qualification of the teachers was not sufficiently high. During the year 1866-67 the educational Officers have been enabled by the help of considerable grants from municipal funds, and by the increased income from the two per cent. educational cess, to raise the salaries of town and village school masters, and to supply more assistant masters. The result of these measures is already becoming apparent in the improved condition of town and village schools, especially in the southern circle of inspection.

Normal schools.

81. There are now four normal schools, at which persons are trained up for masterships of town and village schools. There is also a small female normal school at Nagpore. There is one of these normal schools at the head quarters of each divison. The normal school at Khundwa, which was specially established to provide masters for the Nimar schools, was closed after it had turned out fifteen certificated masters. The opening of the railway between Nagpore and Nimar made it easy for the Nagpore normal school to supply masters for Nimar. In the year 1865-66 the tutorial staff of the Nagpore school was very considerably strengthened; and the good results of this measure are now becoming apparent. In previous years our normal schools had scarcely turned out any certificated town school masters; though they trained a number of masters for village schools. During the year 1866-67 four pupils of the Nagpore school obtained town school certificates, and 42 gained

village school certificates. There are now 90 pupils at this school; of whom 15 are becoming qualified to teach English. An old palace in the city of Nagpore has been made over to the school, and is being fitted up with dormitories as well as class rooms, so that all the scholars who come from outlying towns will be boarded and lodged at the school. The normal schools at Jubbulpore, Raepore, and Hoshungabad are not in quite such a flourishing state as the Nagpore institution. The improvement of these important schools is now under consideration. The total number of certificated masters turned out of our normal schools during the year 1866-67 was 103, as compared with 140 in the year previous.

Aided schools.

82. Of aided schools there are two kinds; *first*, high and middle class schools attached to the Missions at Nagpore, Kamptee, Jubbulpore and Chindwara; and *secondly*, indigenous schools, founded and maintained by natives of the country, which obtain grants-in-aid proportioned to the acquirements evinced by their scholars at periodical examinations.

Mission schools.

83. At Nagpore and at Jubbulpore, the two chief cities of these Provinces, the principal educational institutions are the Mission schools. The Free Church Mission at Nagpore has made much progress during the year. Besides the care and supervision of the Revd. Missionary, the school enjoys the services of two trained teachers from Scotland who joined the school shortly before the beginning of the year under report. During this year, the English classes have been brought on very well; and there seems every probability that several scholars will be well prepared for the University examination in December next. The system of teaching, and the advance recently made both in the English and vernacular departments are highly thought of by the Government Educational Officers. This Mission has branch schools at Chindwara, at Kamptee, and at Seetabuldee. It is now opening another branch school in a populous quarter of the Nagpore city, from which scholars cannot conveniently reach the main institution. The Church Mission at Jubbulpore continues to maintain a high standard of progress at its admirable schools which were established some years ago. The Catholic school at Kamptee, to which a grant-in-aid has recently been given, is also considered to be a useful and successful institution. The total number of pupils at these higher and middle class aided schools was 1,063 for the year 1866-67, against 1,163 in the preceding year. The average cost to Government for each pupil was Rs. 10-14-0 (nearly twenty-two shillings).

Indigenous schools.

84. There were 743 schools, founded and maintained by the people of the country, in operation during the year. The total number of scholars on the rolls of these schools was 19,558 at the end of the year 1866-67. Grants-in-aid were awarded to 249 of these schools; the number of scholars at these aided

schools was 11,818; and the Government grant towards their support amounted during the year 1866-67 to Rs. 1-1-0 (two shillings and three half-pence) for each pupil.

Female schools.

85. The number of female schools continues to increase, there being now 130 schools with 3,621 girls under instruction; as compared with 90 schools and 2,361 pupils in the preceding year. Some of the female schools at towns or cities, where Native gentlemen of position and energy have become patrons, are making excellent progress. At such places the daughters of men of all castes and tribes attend; the people take great interest in the periodical examinations; and the inspecting Officers feel satisfied that the schools are really useful and meet an actual want. At such schools the girls not only learn reading, writing and cyphering; but they are also taught needle work, knitting, and other feminine accomplishments. Some of the girls' schools, however, which do not possess influential patrons, are considered by the educational Officers to be unsuccessful. Effort is being made to elevate the status of these schools, and to induce respectable men of the neighbourhood to lend their countenance.

Scholarships.

86. The Supreme Government, towards the close of the year 1866-67, sanctioned a scheme for granting scholarships to the pupils of village, town, and district schools. Such scholarships will be competed for at examinations; and boys at Mission or other aided schools can be elected thereto. Each scholarship will be tenable for two years at a Government or aided school of the next higher class. For instance a village schoolboy can win a scholarship and hold it for two years, while he is prosecuting his studies at a town school. Again, he can gain a town school scholarship and keep it while he is attending a zillah (district headquarters) school. And if he desires to enter the Educational department he can compete for a scholarship tenable during two years' attendance at a normal school. By means of the attractions thus held out, studious boys will be induced and enabled to prosecute their studies, as far as our present machinery can carry them.

School fees.

87. The total receipts from school fees during the last two years were as follows:—

	1865-66.	1866-67.
Zillah (district) schools ...	Rs. 1,871	Rs. 2,138
Town schools	„ 2,767	„ 5,375
Village schools	„ 3,016	„ 2,632
Aided schools	„ 2,227	„ 3,793
Total Rs.	9,881	13,939
	(£988)	(£1,394)

At present the highest monthly fee paid by any pupil is eight annas (one shilling); and in the majority of schools no fees above one anna (three half-pence) a month are exacted. The Director of Public Instruction has now taken into consideration the propriety of raising the school fees for all boys attending English classes, and for all middle class schools.

General results.

88. Although the educational department is making progress, yet there is very much left to do. Comparing the number of scholars with the population as ascertained at the late census, there are seven children under instruction to every *mille* of the inhabitants. One district however, Sumbulpore, is far ahead of the rest of the Central Provinces in this respect. Two years ago a very remarkable desire for education arose among the Ooriya speaking people of that country. Landowners and priests, aided by the district Officers, founded schools in all directions. The Supreme Government sanctioned grants-in-aid to many of these schools, and also gave special temporary grants towards Government schools in Sumbulpore. The schools are now full to overflowing; many schools, founded in villages by the people themselves and aided by Government, already contain a hundred, or a hundred and fifty pupils each. The only difficulty is the provision of competent masters in sufficient numbers to meet the unusual demand which has suddenly sprung up. There cannot be any doubt about the reality of the movement; for the people of the Sumbulpore district subscribed, in the eleven months of 1866-67, Rs. 26,925 (£2,692) towards educational objects, of which Rs. 13,682 (£1,368) were given towards the salaries of teachers, and the remainder was expended in erecting school houses. The total number of schools established, aided or inspected by Government agency, in the single district of Sumbulpore is now 208; at the end of the year 1866-67 there were 141 such schools; the number of scholars in Sumbulpore has also increased from 6,924 to 11,343. The proportion of children under instruction in Sumbulpore is thirty to every *mille* of the population.

Results in Sumbulpore.

CHAPTER IV.

PUBLIC WORKS.

89. The Public Works Department of the Central Provinces consists of twelve divisions distributed, including the Godavery Works, among three circles of superintendence.

The executive staff of the department consists of—

15 Executive Engineers,
14 Assistant Engineers,
48 Upper Subordinates,
28 Lower Subordinates.

The budget allotment for the year under review was Rs. 32,97,780 (£329,778) divided into the main heads of—

Military Works ...	Rs.	8,32,500	(£83,250)
Civil Works ...	„	18,72,820	(£187,282)
Establishment ...	„	5,51,060	(£55,106)
Tools and plant ...	„	41,400	(£4,140)

and the net expenditure for the same period, Rs. 24,51,746 (£245,174) as follows:—

On Military Works ...	Rs.	4,53,744	(£45,374)
„ Civil Works ...	„	14,51,767	(£145,177)
„ Establishment ...	„	5,19,390	(£51,939)
„ Tools and plant ...	„	26,845	(£2,684)

SECTION I.—MILITARY BUILDINGS.

90. The heaviest expenditure under this head has occurred at the stations of Jubbulpore, Saugor, Kamptee and Nagpore.

At Jubbulpore.

91. At Jubbulpore extensive alterations to the temporary thatched barracks have been in progress and several minor military buildings completed. Efforts have also been made to improve the sanitary condition of the Cantonments by draining the low ground in the neighbourhood of the barracks. This work is still in progress, and the success which has hitherto attended the operation leads to the conclusion that the object will be fully attained.

At Saugor.

92. At Saugor, four barracks, each to contain half a company, have been in progress; but none were pushed to completion by the close of the year, owing to delay in the receipt of iron girders. Good progress was made in the auxiliary buildings for the Royal Artillery.

93. At Kamptee, little was done in actual construction, beyond finishing some minor buildings. But a project for completing accommodation for the Royal Artillery, including estimates for two double-storied barracks has been submitted. A scheme, with details, for a new Arsenal has also been elaborated and laid before the Government of India. A project for the improvement of the defences of the fort of Seetabuldee, with permanent accommodation for the European garrison has received the sanction of the Government of India, and the work is now in hand. A wing of a native Infantry Regiment has been located at Seetabuldee, and the necessary buildings are in a forward state.

At Kamptee and Nagpore.

Section II.—Civil Buildings.

94. Our progress in the construction of Jails has on the whole been very satisfactory, and the four* central jails are now well advanced. Convict labor has been utilized to the utmost, and with good financial results. The construction of permanent Police buildings has been rather held in abeyance pending a revision of standard plans. The progress of the district court-houses of Chanda, Khundwa, and Raepore, has not equalled anticipation; but there have been many difficulties to contend with. A handsome Post Office near the Nagpore railway station has been commenced and will be completed by the month of August in the present year. A new Telegraph Office at Jubbulpore is also well advanced.

Section III.—Irrigation Works.

95. During the past year the progress that was hoped for in this very important branch, has not been realized. Of the three schemes selected, the Saonair, Kuttungee, and Bore, estimates for the former only were submitted; but the project, although very complete, and evincing considerable talent, was practically valueless from its great cost. The management of the Irrigation Division has now passed into other hands and better results are looked for.

Section IV.—Communications.

96. The chief roads now under construction may be noticed in the same order as has been observed in previous reports. The first to be

* Nagpore, Jubbulpore, Hoshungabad and Raepore.

mentioned is the northern road, between Nagpore and the Ganges valley. On the Mirzapore and Jubbulpore road ten bridges of varying sizes have been completed, and the Kutni bridge, with five spans of 45 feet each, has been opened for traffic. By a recent order of the Supreme Government 63 miles of this road have been made over to the Government of the North Western Provinces; and the section now under the management of this Administration commences at the 198th mile from Mirzapore. Between Nagpore and Jubbulpore, the Korai ghat (ascent) is practically completed. It has been planned with judgment, executed with care, and is considered to be a credit to the Engineers engaged on it.

Kunhan Bridge.

97. The Kunhan bridge, consisting of 12 spans of 80 feet each, one of the largest and most interesting works in the Province, has made great progress. Much labour has been expended in sinking the foundations under water, and with satisfactory results. The arrangements for the continuous supply of materials are excellent and the work is unexceptionable.

Eastern and Southern roads.

98. On the Eastern and Southern roads the progress has been fair, and fully proportionate to the available funds, though not quite so great, perhaps, as the commercial importance of the works demanded. Traffic is largely increasing on these lines, and a renewal of the surface with a better material than has hitherto been employed must be looked for.

Road to Indore.

99. The Khundwa and Nerbudda road requires much repair. It was originally constructed on a light scale; and the advance of the railway has thrown upon it more traffic than it can bear. Repairs amounting to reconstruction are necessary. A part of last season was unfortunately lost before this work could be begun, and the road has suffered in consequence. Much effort is now being made to push on the repairs with vigour during this year.

Railway feeders.

100. Several railway feeders have been laid out. Of these, the Punagurh, Sehora, Sleemanabad, Moorwarra, and Jokhye feeders have progressed, and will, it is expected, be metalled during the current year. The important military roads from Saugor to the Great Iffdian Peninsula Railway Station of Gadurwarra; and from Hoshungabad to the Etarsee railway station, have been laid out and surveyed.

Section V.—Railways.

Railways in the Central Provinces.

101. In former reports it has been described how three railway lines traverse the Central Provinces, namely, the main line of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, which enters the Nimar district near Boorhanpore, and runs for 310 miles up the Nerbudda valley to Jubbulpore; *secondly*, the Nagpore extension, belonging to the same Company, which, entering the Wurdah district from Berar, after a course

of about seventy miles in the Wurdah valley, makes its terminus at Nagpore; and, *thirdly*, the Jubbulpore extension of the East Indian Railway, which, taking a southward course from Allahabad, runs for about sixty miles through the Jubbulpore district, and finally meets the main line of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway at the joint terminus of Jubbulpore. The progress made by each of these lines may be separately noticed in the same order in which they have been mentioned.

Line from Bombay to Jubbulpore.

102. The main line of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway was, at the period of last year's report, open to Boorhanpore, a town on the western frontier of these Provinces. In the autumn of 1866 it was opened to Khundwa, the head-quarters of the Nimar district. As the road from Indore; from the large Military cantonments of Mhow and Neemuch; and the principal trade routes from Malwa first touch the railway at Khundwa, the opening of this length has been of great commercial and political benefit. Beyond Khundwa, the line is almost ready as far as Seonee, an important trade mart, 90 miles eastward of Khundwa; it is nearly complete to Etarsee, 21 miles further on. The Railway Company have agreed to open to Etarsee, the station for Hoshungabad, by October 1867. Beyond Etarsee there are several heavy works which will prevent the length from Etarsee to Gadurwara, 72 miles, being quite ready until the year 1869. Beyond Gadurwara there is a length of 80 miles into Jubbulpore, which is nearly ready, and can be made quite ready by December 1867. It is in contemplation to complete the railway connection between Bombay and Calcutta during the open season of 1868, by working the length between Jubbulpore and Gadurwara from the Jubbulpore end, and by running trains over portions of the gap between Etarsee and Gadurwara, or by making temporary crossings over the most serious obstacles. In the rainy season of 1868 temporary crossings will be impracticable; but they will be renewed again in the open season of 1869. By the rainy season of 1869, at latest, the whole line will, it is hoped, be ready.

Branch line to Nagpore.

103. The Nagpore extension of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway was opened to the terminus at Nagpore in February 1867. Goods and passenger trains now run daily into and out of Nagpore. The effects of the completion to Nagpore of communication with the sea-board and Western India are already apparent in the increased activity of trade.

Railway from Allahabad.

104. The East Indian Railway line from Allahabad to Jubbulpore is now complete, and the first train ran into Jubbulpore in the month of May 1867. The line will not, however, be opened for general traffic until August 1867. A fortnightly train will be run from Jubbulpore to Allahabad to carry the European mails from the month of July 1867. The expedition and punctuality with which this line has been finished reflect the greatest credit upon the Engineers and Contractors engaged thereon. The

contractors came on the ground in 1863; and they have now, in 1867, overcome every obstacle, and have completed 231 miles of line within four years of their turning the first sod.

Section VI.—Godavery Navigation Works.

Special Committee's report.

105. Without having actually progressed, these works have made a great step. The Committee appointed by the Supreme Government to examine the project, has submitted its report; and in March 1867 definite orders were issued, pending the final decision of the Secretary of State. Operations were at once commenced on the 1st and 2nd Barriers; and the well known energy of the Superintending Engineer, Major Haig, is a guarantee for future progress.

Probable date for opening navigation.

106. The present intention is to expend during the current year about 2½ lakhs of rupees (£25,000) on the works at the 1st Barrier. If this can be satisfactorily done, the canal round the Barrier will be completed, and the navigation will be clear up to the foot of the 2nd Barrier by June 1868. The works of the 2nd Barrier will be pushed on at the same time, though they will not be completed for the next two seasons.

3rd Barrier.

107. It has not yet been decided to operate upon the 3rd Barrier, nor have detailed estimates for the works upon this part of the river been framed. When navigation up to the first Barrier shall have been opened, and work at the 2nd Barrier shall have made good progress, the scheme for the 3rd Barrier can be seriously taken in hand, and regular explorations of the Wurdah, the Pyn Gunga, and the Godavery proper, above Seroncha, can be undertaken. A full preliminary report upon the navigable reaches of the Wyngunga river was submitted by Mr. Temple, who marched down the whole length of the stream in the summer of 1866.

Flotilla on the Godavery.

108. The fleet of river steamers, which has been described in previous reports, was worked to useful effect during the year in carrying material, supplies, and work-people up and down the river. While Major Haig was on medical leave in England, he ordered, with the sanction of the Secretary of State, three steamers and six barges. Some of these vessels have already arrived in India, and the rest are expected in the course of a few months. They are built on a model designed to combine very light draught with considerable power and stowage room. They will be of great use while the works are in progress; and when the navigation is open, they will be the pioneers of commerce on the waters of the Godavery.

Section VII.—Miscellaneous and Municipal Works.

Total expenditure.

109. The works under this category consist of roads, bridges, rest-houses, serais, tanks, water-works, streets, squares, drainage and sanitary arrangements,

public buildings, and other local improvements of various kinds. The total amount expended by the several Local and Municipal Committees on works of this kind, during the year 1866-67, was about 11½ lakhs of rupees (£115,000).

Communications opened by Local Committees.

110. Now that the construction and maintenance of roads in all parts of the country is so largely defrayed from local funds, the work of the Local Committees is becoming more and more important. The undertakings on which these bodies expend their funds are necessarily much scattered. Among the most important "communications" operated upon during the year 1866-67 may be mentioned, the Chilpee ghat (pass) road up a rugged ascent which used formerly to be the chief obstacle between the northern portion of the Chutteesgurh country and the railway at Jubbulpore; sundry other passes between the Bhundara lowlands and the country above the hills were levelled and made passable for carts; a number of metalled roads to the various railway stations in the Nagpore country and the Nerbudda Valley were either begun or pushed on; a few other short lengths of metalled road were completed; annual repairs were also done to many hundred miles of unmetalled roads; ferries were maintained at suitable spots along the principal rivers; while the crossings over minor streams were sloped and made practicable for wheeled carriages.

Miscellaneous improvements.

111. Among the miscellaneous buildings and municipal improvements, which have been commenced or completed during the year 1866-67, may be mentioned the schemes for supplying water to the city of Nagpore and the town of Hingunghat; the town-hall at Jubbulpore; the clock tower at Hurdah; the market places at Toomsur, Seonee, and Baitool. Much has also been done in improving street architecture, and opening broad streets and squares in the principal towns. Nor have improvements of this kind been confined to the works executed by public bodies from municipal funds. The example set has already begun to radiate among the towns-folk themselves. There is now in these Provinces hardly a town of importance which does not contain a drinking fountain, or a well, or a school-house, or a dispensary, or a rest-house, or some other useful public building erected by private munificence. The flights of steps down to the Nerbudda river at Hoshungabad, which are now being constructed by private persons, may vie with the works of devout Hindoos on any river of India. More than a hundred Native gentlemen were present at a recent durbar, held at Jubbulpore, who had constructed in their native towns works of public utility or ornament, at a cost ranging from Rs. 500 (£50), to Rs. 20,000 (£2,000) for each undertaking. Dresses of honour (khilluts) were presented by Mr. Temple in open durbar to the people who had in this way evinced distinguished liberality.

SECTION VIII.—TOTAL OF PUBLIC WORKS.

112. The following is an abstract of the expenditure on Public Works during the past two years :—

		Military Works.	Civil Works.	Roads.	Navigation Works.	Miscellaneous Public Improvements.	Tools and Plant.	Establishment.	Profit and Loss.	Advances for Stocks.	Total Expenditure.	Local Works.	Grand Total Expenditure.
1865-66	From the year's Budget Grant	Rs. 4,17,878	6,98,696	9,13,972	4,74,908	14,401	40,777	6,30,264	58,515	..	31,94,911	8,24,105	39,59,016
		£. 41,738	69,870	81,397	47,491	1,440	4,078	62,026	5,951	..	313,491	83,410	395,901
1866-67	From the year's Budget Grant	Rs. 4,53,744	6,58,236	4,94,536	2,89,847	18,148	26,845	5,19,390	6,991	87,469	25 46,206	7,30,314	32,76,420
		£. 45,374	65,824	49,453	28,985	1,815	2,684	51,939	700	8,747	254,021	73,031	327,642

CHAPTER V.

POST OFFICE.

Provincial head of Postal department.

113. In last year's report it was mentioned that the Postal department in these Provinces had been placed under the charge of a Chief Inspector, and that more efficient administration might be looked for. The expectation then expressed has been fulfilled, and much has been done, during the year 1866-67, to improve, and extend the imperial Postal department; to develope the rural post; and to expedite the transmission of the mails.

114. The extent of the mail lines in these Provinces at the close of the year 1866-67, was as follows:—

Mails carried by railway	... ...	158 miles,
„	either in mail carts or on saddle horses ..	406 „
„	runners on imperial postal lines ...	2,230 „
„	„ on rural postal lines ...	3,200 „

Extent of postal lines.

115. The 406 miles of horsed postal line is, at present perhaps, the most important link in Indian postal communication, inasmuch as it is the only length on which mails between Europe and Calcutta are not carried by steam power. The average speed attained on this road by the public mails has been 8½ miles an hour during the year 1866-67. The general average speed attained by runners on Imperial postal lines has been from 3½ to 4 miles an hour. The speed attained on the rural post lines is, as yet, unequal and insufficient. But arrangements are being made for bringing these lines into an efficient state.

Number of Post Offices.

116. At the close of last year there were 30 imperial post offices in these Provinces. There are now 45 permanent imperial offices, besides 20 experimental offices in rural towns, where School-masters have, for a small remuneration, undertaken the duties of Post-master. There are about 108 rural post offices, superintended by the Police department.

Correspondence.

117. The total number of letters, newspapers and parcels received for delivery and despatch at the imperial post offices of the Central Provinces, exclusive of through mails, was, for the year 1866-67,—

Received for delivery	1,668,640
Received for despatch	1,794,236

The number of letters passing through the rural post offices was 506,503 for the year 1866-67, as compared with 632,803 in the foregoing year. Of these last, the majority were service letters; only 189,752 were private letters. The proportion borne by undelivered letters to the total number of private covers carried by the rural post is still considerable, though it is smaller than in the preceding year.

Expenditure.

118. The expenditure on the Postal department in the Central Provinces is returned thus:—

Imperial postal lines	Rs.	3,42,500
Rural (or local) lines	„	34,891
Total	„	3,77,391

The charges are swelled by the cost of carrying heavy mails between Europe and Northern India, while the receipts on account of these mails are credited in other Provinces.

Mails conveyed by Railway.

119. The further extension of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway line between Bhosawul and Jubbulpore; and the opening of the railway between Allahabad and Jubbulpore will materially improve the efficiency, and lessen the cost of the postal service in these Provinces. The full benefit of the improved communications will not, however, be reaped by the Postal department, until sorting carriages shall be introduced on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway.

New Post Office Act.

120. The new Post Office Act (XIV. of 1866) came into force at the beginning of the year 1866-67. Its provisions have been on several occasions usefully enforced against persons obstructing the mails, and against officials of the Postal department. The modified rules for franking letters on "Her Majesty's service," have been in force since August last.

Epizootic among Mail horses.

121. During the summer and autumn of 1866 an extraordinary and incurable disease attacked the mail horses on the road between Jubbulpore and Nagpore. During a few months 512 horses died. As the whole establishment of horses on that line consisted in 1866 of only 280 horses, it follows that at several stages two or more sets of horses must have died. A special enquiry, with the aid of a competent Veterinary Surgeon, was made. It appeared that the disease was of a new form; and that it was most virulent at the stages near to certain small streams. It was also manifest that the Local Officers had done their best to combat the disease; and that notwithstanding the death of so many horses, the mails were kept running. Arrangements have been made for removing the stages from places which seem most liable to infection; and for supplying good drinking water at all stables. The disease has, happily, not reappeared during the summer of 1867.

CHAPTER VI.

ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH.

122. A Telegraph office was finally opened at Hingunghat in the Wurdah district early in the year, much to the convenience of the Cotton trade. Within a few days of the opening of this branch line, a cotton telegram from Hingunghat was despatched to Liverpool and reached its destination in thirty eight hours. An entirely new line has been constructed with Hamilton's standards and insulators along the road between Nagpore and Chanda with a branch to Hingunghat. The line between Jubbulpore and Seonee has been similarly reconstructed, and that between Seonee and Nagpore was thoroughly repaired. Between Jubbulpore and Mirzapore the line will be taken down after the rains and a new double line on standards will be erected along the railway to Allahabad; meanwhile the old line has been repaired. From Chanda to Seroncha the standards are on the ground and will be set up before the rainy season of 1868, the old line meanwhile being kept in repair. From Seroncha to Doomagoodium, the head-quarters of the Navigation Works on the Godavery, the line is in good order; while from Seroncha to Wurrungul and Hyderabad (Deccan) the old line is under repair, and will be reconstructed with Hamilton's standards during the open season of 1868. Generally the Telegraph service has been gaining in efficiency and is well supervised in these Provinces.

CHAPTER VII.

FINANCIAL.

Statement of revenue and expenditure.

123. A Financial statement prepared by the Deputy Accountant General will be found appended to this report. It shows under the several heads the totals of receipt and expenditure. In comparing the figures now presented with those appended to last year's report, it must be borne in mind that the year 1866-67 comprised only eleven months. In respect of land tax, and Pandhari (house tax), the demand for eleven months was equal to a full year's revenue; but in respect of the remaining items of revenue, such as Customs, Stamps, Excise, Forests, Miscellaneous, the receipts fell short by one-twelfth of the sum which would have been realized in a full year of twelve months.

Comparison of receipts for the last two years.

124. From a perusal of the statement it will be seen that the receipts under the several heads of "Imperial Revenue" amount to Rs. 1,04,43,156 (£1,044,315). In the foregoing year the amount stood at Rs. 99,00,655 (£990,065). The receipts of the year 1866-67 thus exceed those of 1865-66, by Rs. 5,42,501 (£54,250). The percentage of increase, namely, six per cent, is thus exactly the same as last year. It should be noted here that, under the head of land revenue there was, so to speak, a windfall of five lakhs (£50,000), which will not recur in future years. But then, on the other hand, all the main heads of revenue excepting land tax show the receipts for eleven months instead of twelve. The several heads of revenue, having been fully noticed in the foregoing Chapter II, require no further remark here.

Local Fund receipts.

125. The Local Funds' income, being the receipts for eleven months only, falls short of the revenue for the preceding year. The total receipts for the year 1866-67 amount to Rs. 16,75,664 (£167,566), as compared with Rs. 17,07,613 (£170,761) in the year 1865-66. The decrease, however, instead of being one-twelfth, or eight per cent, is only Rs. 32,045 (£3,204), or about one and half per cent. If the year 1866-67 had been a full year of twelve months, its Local Fund receipts would show considerable increase over the income of the preceding year.

Total Public Income.

126. Taking the Revenue and Local Fund receipts together, the total public income for the year 1866-67 was Rs. 1,21,54,864 (£1,215,486). But the sum of Rs. 1,23,722 (£12,372) as explained in a note to the appended state-

ment, is shown both under Revenue and under Local Fund receipts. A deduction on this account having been made, the net public income of the year 1866-67 is Rs. 1,20,31,142 (£1,203,114), as compared with Rs. 1,15,12,916 (£1,151,291) in the preceding year. The ratio of increase over last year's income is thus about 4 per cent.

Forest Revenue is not fully shown.

127. It may be remarked here, that the circumstance of the Government Public Works department having taken the bulk (Rs. 1,39,000 worth) of the timber brought out of the Government Forests during the year, has resulted in this sum (nearly a lakh and a half of rupees) being omitted from the financial receipts of the year. The rules of the Account department prohibit inter-departmental cash payments. And therefore this sum, though it may perhaps be fairly considered an item of forest revenue, is not shown on the revenue side of the accounts.

Expenditure of the year 1866-67.

128. The total expenditure for the year 1866-67 (inclusive of all Civil and Political charges, but exclusive of charges for the Army and Public Works,) amounted to Rs. 58,30,233 (£583,023), as compared with Rs. 64,93,017 (£649,301) in the foregoing year. This decrease of expenditure, to the amount of 6½ lakhs (£62,500), is in part due to the shortness of the financial year 1866-67. But the decrease is not wholly due to this cause; for the expenditure under the headings of "land revenue", "allowances and refunds", "political pensions and allowances," has largely decreased. On the other hand, the working charges of revenue departments, such as the "Customs" and the "Forests" have increased. The expenditure also on "Education," "Medical department," that is dispensaries and the like, has also increased. Still there has, on the whole, been net reduction of charges to the amount of more than a lakh of rupees (£10,000) a year. And this result has been effected in a year, during which arrangements for putting all the grades of the public service on a better footing have been carried out; and during a year when the charges for compensation on account of dearness of provisions have been greater than they ever were before. It is to be borne in mind, however, that the disbursements of the year 1865-66, with which the accounts now under consideration are being compared, included certain charges of an extraordinary character, which have not recurred in the year 1866-67.

General review of official salaries.

129. It may be well to describe particularly in this place the several measures, which have been taken during the year 1866-67, for raising the salaries and improving the status of the various grades of the public service. The main ground on which these increases of salary were sanctioned, was that the cost of living and the price of necessaries had risen, throughout the Central Provinces, nearly cent per cent since the time when the salaries of public servants were last fixed.

Detailed account of the revision under its several heads.

130. The changes which have been made, or are under consideration, may be grouped under the five heads of—

(1). Salaries of Officers, such as Deputy Commissioners and Assistant Commissioners.

(2). Salaries of vernacular clerks in the Judicial and Revenue departments, at the head-quarters of divisions and districts.

(3). Wages of Police Constables, of Customs' (preventive) employés, of prison guards, of messengers, and the lower grades of office servants.

(4). Salaries of Tehseeldars (sub-divisional officers), and their clerks in the Revenue and Judicial departments.

(5). Salaries of English clerks in certain offices.

Deputy Commissioners and Assistant Commissioners.

First, with reference to the salaries of Deputy Commissioners. The scale of pay for these Officers in the Central Provinces had been fixed in the year 1861, on the same scale as existed in the similarly constituted Provinces of Oudh and the Punjab. But in the year 1865-66, the rates of salary for Deputy Commissioners and Assistant Commissioners in these Provinces were raised on general considerations. When the pay of Deputy Commissioners and Assistants in the Punjab and Oudh were raised, it became clear that this Administration could not command or retain the services of good Civil Officers, unless it could pay them at a rate more nearly approaching to that which obtained in other Provinces. On the other hand it was also obvious that the revenue and the importance of some of the districts in the Central Provinces were below the average of districts in the other Provinces above mentioned. Accordingly, a modified scale of salaries was sanctioned for the Deputy Commissioners and Assistant Commissioners in these Provinces, assigning to the more important Deputy Commissionerships the improved rate of pay obtaining in the Punjab, while it retained a lower scale of salary for the smaller districts. The total extra charge which resulted to the State from these changes amounted to Rs. 59,200 (£5,920) a year.

Vernacular clerks in Deputy Commissioner's Offices.

Secondly, with reference to the salaries of vernacular clerks in Judicial and Revenue offices. The existing scale of salaries had been cast five years ago, during the first year of the Central Provinces' Administration. Since that time the amount of judicial and other business to be done had more than doubled; increased exactness and accuracy were required of all public servants. And, while a higher standard of qualifications was insisted on, the purchasing power of salaries allowed had fallen cent per cent. The price of corn was ruling at considerably more than double the average price of the decade from 1852 to 1862; wages of other kinds had risen, so much so that

16 rupees the average monthly salary of the lowest class of vernacular clerks, barely equalled the monthly earnings of an average mason, bricklayer or carpenter. It was apprehended that these clerks, through whose hands much important business of various kinds passed, would resort to corrupt practices, and might make illicit gains; and that the subordinates of our Judicial courts and Revenue offices would become demoralized. Accordingly, the salaries of this important class of public servants were revised, in conformity with a general scheme drawn up by Mr. John Strachey, the present Chief Commissioner of Oudh. The result of this revision was a general enhancement of salaries, and the reduction of a considerable number of subordinate offices. The average salary of the lowest class of vernacular clerks (mohurrirs) is now 27 rupees a month. The total extra cost consequent on this revision is Rs. 37,680 (£3,768) a year. As a set off against this increased expenditure, there will be an annual credit of about Rs. 30,000 (£3,000) under the head of savings from the process server's (tulubana) fund.

Compensatory allowances to Constables and others.

Thirdly, in regard to the wages of Constables, of Jail guards, of the lower grades of the Customs (preventive) service. There was no doubt, but that public servants of these grades had, during the last two years of high prices, been much pinched. There had been some complaint among them; and there was ground for apprehending that this class of employés might become demoralized, unless some special steps were taken to place them and their families above actual want. At the same time the finances would not admit of any general raising of the wages of this class of Government servants; for any increase of the kind would from its nature be permanent, while the dearness of provisions might hereafter be mitigated. Accordingly, it was decided to apply to these grades, rules somewhat similar to the regulations of the Military department, whereby a soldier's pay is raised when the price of corn is above a certain moderate rate. The concession of this boon gave great relief to all the employés it affected. And during the summer and autumn of the year 1866, prices ranged so high that compensation became everywhere payable. Since December 1866, however, there has, thanks to an abundant harvest, been a general fall of prices. And extra wages on account of dearness of provisions have been payable only in two or three exceptionally dear districts. If prices were to continue at the level of the autumn of 1866, the extra expenditure in these Provinces on account of compensatory allowances would amount to about Rs. 1,25,000 (£12,500) a year. As circumstances now stand, the extra charge on this account will not, it is hoped, exceed Rs. 20,000 (£2,000).

Salaries of sub-divisional Establishments.

Fourthly, with regard to the salaries of Tehseeldars (Native sub-divisional officers), and their vernacular clerks. A Tehseeldar, in Provinces like these, is the sub-collector of his sub-division; he is also the Civil Judge of the Court of the first instance; and he is the local Magistrate within his jurisdiction. He is also the Vice-president of

Municipal Committees; and the director and supervisor of all executive and administrative matters within his sub-division. The necessity for raising the pay and improving the status of these subordinate Civil Judges has for some time been admitted. Very recently, the Stamp Laws have been modified; and the scale of stamp fees in judicial matters has been raised, in order that an enhanced stamp revenue might cover the cost of a scheme for bettering the position of subordinate Judges. A proposition is now before the Supreme Government for giving effect to these views by raising the salaries of Tehseeldars (sub-divisional officers), and recasting the staff of vernacular clerks on the principle of Mr. Strachey's scheme, adverted to in paragraph 126 of this Chapter. If Mr. Temple's recommendations on this head are approved, the extra charge involved will be Rs. 55,992 (£5,599) per annum. As a set off against this expenditure, must be reckoned the anticipated increase of the Stamp revenue under the new Law.

Temporary increase of pay to English clerks.

Fifthly, it was found that the dearness of living pressed very hardly upon the lower grades of English clerks, many of whom are Europeans and Eurasians. Persons of this class cannot, from their way of living, subsist on the salaries, which are a competence for Natives of India of a corresponding grade. The Supreme Government accordingly, on Mr. Temple's recommendation, sanctioned, temporarily, compensatory allowances to certain classes of English clerks, whose salaries do not exceed Rs. 100 (£10) per mensem. The total cost of these temporary increases of salary amounts to about Rs. 8,481 (£848) per annum.

Local Fund expenditure.

131. The expenditure under the several headings of the "Local Funds" has been fully in proportion to the receipts. The total disbursements from local funds for the year 1866-67, amounted to Rs. 17,03,045 (£170,304), as compared with an expenditure of Rs. 15,17,826 (£151,782) in the foregoing year.

Audit and Account.

132. The post audit system continues to work smoothly and efficiently. The new system of accounts was introduced successfully during the year. It appears to fulfil the intentions of its framers; inasmuch as all transactions are audited, posted up, and finally brought to account within eight weeks of the date of their occurrence.

Bank of Bengal.

133. The branches of the Bank of Bengal at Nagpore and Jubbulpore continue to transact with efficiency the business of the two chief treasuries in these Provinces. The branch of the Bank of Bombay, which for some time carried on business at Nagpore, has been closed. A sub-branch of the Bank of Bengal was opened at the Cotton mart of Hingunghat during the cotton season, and was of much convenience to the trade.

Currency Note circulation.

134. A considerable amount of Currency notes, Rs. 50,09,640 (£500,964) worth, have been issued to traders from the Nagpore Currency Office during the year 1866-67. But the proportion of this large issue which takes the place of money, and passes from hand to hand, is very small. The notes are mainly used as a means of remitting money from one part of the Central Provinces to another, or from local marts to Calcutta. The mode in which traders make use of the Currency notes, seems to be as follows; they send the notes to Calcutta to their Agents who realize at the head Currency Office. The usance for bills on Calcutta, according to local custom, is sixty-one days; while Currency notes can go by post in six days. Thus a man can sell a hoondee on Calcutta, and trade on the money so realized for 50 days; at the end of that time, he can buy Currency notes and send them to Calcutta to meet the hoondee on maturity. Such hoondies are usually drawn, not directly on Calcutta, but through other markets according as the price of money may be ruling. Thus a man, who is sending 50,000 rupees of Currency notes to Calcutta, will draw against them through Hyderabad and Madras, or through Saugor and Mirzapore, or through Raepore and Cuttack. Out of the total number of Currency notes issued during the year 1866-67, Rs. 48,31,640 (£483,164) worth were presented for encashment at the Calcutta Currency office. During the year under report 12½ lakhs (£125,000) of Nagpore notes were cancelled at Calcutta, and a corresponding amount of the silver reserve in the Currency vaults at Nagpore was remitted to Bombay, under the orders of the Supreme Government. The amount of silver in the Currency vaults at the close of the year 1866-67 was Rs. 43,48,469 (£434,846); and the amount of the Nagpore silver reserve invested in Government securities was Rs. 5,47,900 (£ 54,790.)

Money Order system.

135. The money order system, which has worked well for some years in Bengal, was extended to these Provinces at the close of the year 1866-67. There are now money order Agents at every district head-quarters; and the system will prove of much convenience in petty transactions.

Cost of Military Forces in the Central Provinces.

136. The garrison of these Provinces continues the same as in previous years. Its cost is shown to have been Rs. 48,25,281 (£482,528); or equal to eleven months' expenditure at the same rate as the preceding year.

Public Works' expenditure.

137. The expenditure of the Public Works Department, inclusive of the cost of the Godavery navigation works, amounted to Rs. 24,51,746 (£245,175), for the year 1866-67, or Rs. 6,27,010 (£62,701), below the outlay of the preceding year. This does not include expenditure from local and municipal funds.

Aggregate expenditure of all kinds.

138. The total Imperial expenditure within the Central Provinces for the year 1866-67, may be stated in round numbers, as follows:—

On account of all Civil charges	58	lakhs of rupees	(£580,000)
On account of the Army ..	48	„	(£480,000)
On account of the Public Works Department	25	„	(£250,000)
Total ..	131	„	(£1,310,000)

CHAPTER VIII.

ECCLESIASTICAL.

Chaplains.

139. The number and the distribution of Chaplains serving in these Provinces remain the same as in former years; namely, one Chaplain at each of the four stations of Nagpore, Kamptee, Jubbulpore, and Saugor. Negotiations are in progress with the Additional Clergy Society for providing Clergymen at one or more of the out-stations where churches have been built.

The building of Churches.

140. In last year's report it was stated that Churches had been built at Bhundara and Raepore. During the year 1866-67 the Churches at Chindwara, and at Khundwa, in Nimar, have been completed. The Church at Hoshungabad has been pushed on towards completion. Sufficient funds have been collected for erecting a new Church at Chanda, and for transforming an existing building at Nursingpore into a place of worship. There is now a Church either completed, or under construction at eight out of the fourteen out-stations in these Provinces.

CHAPTER IX.

POLITICAL.

Feudatory Chiefs.

141. The number of feudatory chiefs in these Provinces is 15, as was stated in last year's report. These personages, who wield quasi-sovereign power in their own territories, have on the whole, managed their countries well during the year 1866-67. Regarding the conduct of only one feudatory chief were complaints made. And even in those cases the chieftain appeared, after full enquiry had been made, to be very little in fault.

Rajah of Mukrai.

142. The late Rajah of Makrai, the only feudatory chief of the Nerbudda country, died in December 1866. He left no male issue; but he had, shortly before his death, availed himself of the permission granted to him by the Viceroy, to adopt an heir according to the custom of his race. A report upon the succession to the Mukrai Chiefship has been submitted; and the adopted heir will succeed. He is a well disposed youth, of about sixteen years of age.

Jug Sahai of Phooljhur.

143. Jug Sahai Rajah of Phooljhur also died during the year 1866-67. This chieftain, though he is not a Feudatory, is yet one of the most important non-feudatory chiefs of the Mahanuddy valley. He belongs to the Gond race. It has not yet been decided who is the rightful successor to the estate.

Boundary dispute in Kharonde.

144. An Officer deputed from the Madras side met the Deputy Commissioner of Sumbulpore in February 1867, and after full investigation, came to a joint decision regarding a long pending boundary dispute between two chiefs on the south-eastern frontier of these Provinces. The award, which has received the approval of the Madras Government and has been ratified by the Supreme Government, assigns the disputed tract to the Rajah of Kharonde, a Feudatory under this Administration.

Boundary disputes among Gurjhat States.

145. It having been pointed out that many boundary disputes were pending between the Gurjhat States, and other chiefships of the Chutteesgurh country; and it being apprehended that these disputes, if left undecided, would engender ill-feeling, and might occasion disturbance; an Officer of special experience in that part of the country was deputed, with

the sanction of the Supreme Government, to investigate these boundary quarrels. Captain Cumberlege, who was selected for the work, entered on his special duty in January 1867, and by the end of April he had decided 34 out of the 91 disputes which he found pending. He visited, or had interviews with, most of the Gurjhat chiefs; and has gained much valuable information about the resources of those comparatively unexplored tracts.

General revision of tributes.

146. Under the orders of the Supreme Government the tributes, or "tukolee" as it is called in these parts, payable by each feudatory chief is to be periodically revised or reassessed. No such revision has taken place for many years past. The data for the revision are, however, now almost collected; some of the tributes have been revised; and the remainder will shortly come under review. The information obtained by Captain Cumberlege, during his deputation on special duty, will be of much use in determining what tributes shall be assessed upon the Gurjhat States.

Punnah boundary.

147. An Officer serving under the Central India Agency, met the Deputy Commissioner of Jubbulpore upon the north-western frontier of these Provinces to lay down the boundary line between the district of Jubbulpore and the Bundeelah State of Punnah. A joint report upon the matter was submitted. But as the Punnah chief, after the preparation of the report, adduced certain further agreements, which his agent had not brought forward at the local investigation, it has been deemed advisable to have another enquiry on the spot, in order that all the points in dispute may be finally set at rest.

CHAPTER X.

MILITARY.

148. The strength and distribution of the Military Forces in these Provinces, remain the same as in previous years. The total garrison consists of,—

6 Batteries of European Artillery.
3 Regiments of European Infantry.
1 Company of Native Sappers and Miners.
2 Regiments of Native Cavalry.
7 Regiments of Native Infantry; or about 9,500 men of all ranks.

The Company of Sappers and Miners, which for some years has been quartered at Mohtoor, has now been transferred to Seroncha on the Godavery. One important change, which has taken effect during the year 1866-67, has been the substitution of Native Regiments of the Bengal Army for Regiments of the Madras Army at the Stations of Jubbulpore and Saugor.

Strength of the several garrisons.

149. The strength of the troops which are to garrison the several Cantonments, was decided upon in the year 1865-66, and an account of the distribution then determined upon was given in last year's report. The orders therein referred to continue to be strictly observed.

Health of the Troops.

150. The health of the troops has been good at all stations, except Jubbulpore. Cholera did not appear at any Cantonment in an epidemic form. Her Majesty's 23rd Fusiliers, who marched from Agra to Jubbulpore in the cold season of 1865-66, were attacked during the rainy season of 1866, by fevers of a peculiarly violent type. Many deaths occurred, and the average number of sick in hospital continued to be high until the end of December. During the spring of 1867 the regiment has recovered its health. So far as an opinion can be formed, it would seem that the transfer from the dry climate of Agra to the comparatively humid atmosphere of Jubbulpore, pre-disposed the Fusiliers to fever. The year 1866 was a particularly unhealthy time at Jubbulpore among all classes of the population; and the general insalubrity of the season told with particular severity on the soldiers of the 23rd Regiment. The nature of the accommodation, and the situation of the

barracks may have had its effect in making the men unhealthy. Strenuous effort has been made during the working season of 1866-67 to remedy these defects.

Cantonment Rules.

151. Revised Cantonment rules, drawn up under Section 19 of Act XXII. of 1864 (the Cantonment Act), have been sanctioned and introduced into the Military stations of Kamptee, Jubbulpore, and Saugor. Cantonment Committees have been formed, with sufficient funds at their disposal to carry out all measures of sanitary improvement. Lock hospitals have been open during the whole year, at the three Cantonments abovementioned, which are garrisoned by European troops. The strict observance of the Lock-hospital rules has already had a good effect upon the health of the troops.

Volunteers.

152. The Nagpore Volunteers continue to be about 80 strong. At their last inspection by the General Commanding the Nagpore Force, the Volunteers acquitted themselves with much credit. The departure of Mr. Temple, who was Colonel and chief supporter of the Corps, has been a great loss to the Nagpore Volunteers.

CHAPTER XI.

FORESTS.

System of Forest management.

153. In previous reports it has been explained that the Government forests of these Provinces, extending over an area of about 23,000 square miles, are for administrative purposes classed as "reserved" and "unreserved" forests. The reserved forests are managed by trained forest Officers; their limits are permanently demarcated; and within those boundaries all the rules of forest conservancy are enforced, no trees are felled save under the special direction of skilled foresters, and plantations of young timber trees are being reared up. The unreserved forests, which cover about 21,000 square miles of waste land, are managed by the local civil authorities. In these tracts the right to collect miscellaneous forest produce, such as gums, fire-wood, lac, wild silk cocoons, bamboos, grass, and the like, is annually leased out. Permits are also granted to persons who may desire to cut timber from the unreserved forests.

Reserved Forests.

154. The selection and demarcation of "reserves," which business had been begun in previous years has now been brought almost to a conclusion. In the more important forest tracts the reserves are in full working order; their conservancy is satisfactorily effected, the people of the country understand the rule and make no attempt to trespass into, or in any way to injure the "reserves." It has not yet been found possible to exclude from these forests the summer fires, which annually devastate the jungles in the months of May and June, when the face of nature is parched from prolonged dryness. But still something has been done in the older reserves, and various measures are being tried to mitigate the force of the fires. With the exception of a few hundred saul (*shorea robusta*) trees, which were felled in the Toplah forests of the Balaghat district, and carted into Jubbulpore for the railway and public works, no felling operations on a large scale were conducted by the Forest department during the year 1866-67. By taking out teak stumps; by dragging ownerless logs, cut down in former years, out of the forests; and by felling scattered trees which were past their prime, the forest Officers managed to collect, and sell, or stock at convenient depôts, more than a lakh and a half of rupees' (£15,000) worth of good timber, and this result was gained by utilizing trees and logs which, under the arrangements of ordinary timber dealers, would never have come to market at all. The growing trees have thus been everywhere spared; and the requirements of future years have been kept in view.

Explorations.

155. Although the Government forests had for the most part been fully explored and reported upon in former years, there were still some comparatively little known jungle tracts in the Chutteesgurh, or eastern division; and there were large forests belonging to private proprietors (zemindars), which had still to be explored. During the year under report the eastern forests have been visited by forest Officers; much valuable jungle land, yielding bamboos and fire-wood to the open Chutteesgurh country, has been brought under regular management; and the saul (*shorea robusta*) forests near the sources of the Mahanuddy have been reported upon. The timber of this last mentioned tract is too far from roads and markets to repay any attempts to work it, for the present at any rate. In future years as the country opens out, these forests may become a valuable source of timber supply. The most noteworthy explorations of the year were made by the Conservator, Major Pearson, into the forests of the estates (zemindarees) on the Wyngunga river in the Chanda district. In these forests, one of them situated on the hills above the Godavery river, there still exist many thousands, perhaps even hundreds of thousands of noble teak (*tectona grandis*), and sheshum (*dalbergia latifolia*) trees. Arrangements are being made for the Government Forest department to work these forests under special agreement. The conditions stipulated upon will secure to the proprietors (zemindars) a considerable revenue; and will at the same time enable our officials to work the forest under the most approved rules, and to send a regular supply of first-rate timber to the markets of the Nagpore country and of the Godavery valley.

Unreserved Forests.

156. The system under which the unreserved forests are worked, has now become consolidated in all districts, except those of the Chutteesgurh division, where the Settlement department has barely completed the operation of demarcating the boundaries between Government wastes and private estates. The right of collecting forest produce (usufruct leases as they are called), over plots of waste averaging about 4,000 or 5,000 acres, is let out annually. The leases are usually taken by the leading residents of the nearest tract which has no supply of fire-wood, forage or petty timber. In this way the Government revenue from wastes and jungles is realized with a minimum of inconvenience to the people of the surrounding country. There is a remarkable concurrence of testimony among all district officials, to the effect that the people have everywhere become accustomed to, and have almost everywhere become satisfied with the forest laws. The new forest system has done indirect good, in that it makes landholders utilize more fully their own lands. It contributes also to wean the forest tribes from migratory habits, and from desultory labour; and these comparatively uncivilized races are beginning to acquire habits of steady industry. Prosecutions for breach of the forest rules are exceedingly rare. And on the other hand complaints regarding their stringency are now very seldom heard. During the

year under report a complaint was made that the payment of grazing fees pressed hardly on Brinjarras (pack-bullock owners), a most useful class of men, who do nearly the whole of the grain and salt carrying trade in the wilder tracts. In that case, after due enquiry, the strictness of the rules was relaxed in favour of Brinjarras travelling through the forests.

Financial results.

157. The financial result of the year's forest administration was highly successful. Although the year 1866-67 comprised only eleven months, yet the forest revenue for that year was nearly double the receipts of the preceding year. The increase in income accrued both in the reserved and in the unreserved forests. The net income of the Forest department for the year 1866-67 may be thus shown:—

Creditor.	Rupees.	Debtor.	Rupees.
Cash receipts of the year	3,70,719	Stock in hand at the beginning of the year...	1,62,598
Stock in hand at the year's end	2,28,947	Outstanding debts due to the Forest department at the beginning of the year	61,779
Outstanding debts due to the Forest department at the close of the year	10,271	Expenditure	1,45,708
		Total..	3,70,085
		Balance in favour of the Forest department ..	2,39,852
Total..	6,09,937	Total..	6,09,937

There was thus a surplus or net profit on the forest operations of the year 1866-67 of Rs. 2,39,852 (£23,985).

Progressive increase of Forest revenue.

158. The rate at which the forest income of these Provinces has increased, during the last three years, may be seen from the following figures:—

Year.	Gross income.		Net surplus computed as in the foregoing paragraph.	
1864-65	Rs. 89,306	(£8,930)	Rs. 1,08,083	(£10,808)
1865-66	„ 2,02,643	(£20,264)	„ 1,37,162	(£13,716)
1866-67	„ 3,70,719	(£37,072)	„ 2,39,852	(£23,985)

The fiscal results of the year's forest management exhibit a further satisfactory feature, in respect of the smallness of the outstanding debts. In previous years the unrealized revenue has been considerable. During the year under report, only 3 per cent of the revenue was uncollected at its close.

CHAPTER XII.

CENSUS.

Census of 1866.

159. During the year 1866-67, a regular census of the population was, with the sanction of the Supreme Government, taken in these Provinces. No enumeration of the inhabitants had previously been undertaken, though estimates had on various occasions been framed. In districts where the regular settlement of the land revenue was going on, and the operation known as the house-census had been effected, the materials for such estimates were full and reliable. In some parts of the country, there were no data for population statistics, save such facts as could be gathered by a general enquiry.

Agency employed.

160. The census of 1866 was taken after the most approved method. Effort was made to count every soul who slept in the Central Provinces on the night between the 5th and 6th days of November. No special paid agency was employed in effecting the census. Servants of Government in all departments lent their aid in instructing and supervising the enumerators, who had to do the actual work of counting. The people themselves, after they had got over the novelty and strangeness of the affair, seemed quite ready to help as far as they could. In cities and towns the Municipal Committees conducted the census, and in the larger places they received aid and advice from the resident Government officials. An enumerator was told off to every hundred houses in towns, and to every country village. It was his business to go round his beat on the night of the 5th November, and fill in the columns of the census paper, house by house. The enumerators were usually landholders or their agents, village accountants, schoolmasters, petty shopkeepers, and in fact any educated men who volunteered for the business. In some of the more remote and less civilized tracts, policemen, who could write, were told off to count the people. Care was taken that all the enumerators, whoever they were, fully understood what they had to do.

Affair passed off well.

161. The affair passed off well, and the counting was successfully done. It gave rise to no apprehension or distrust among the people. Absurd rumours were indeed afloat in some parts of the country, as to what the Government would do at the census. But these stories gained few believers, and they had by the night of the census lost what little credit may at first have been given to them. A separate report upon the results of

the census has been submitted to the Supreme Government; but it may be well to offer here a few of the more valuable statistics that were obtained.

General results.

162. With the population returns were collated the statistics of area, of cultivated and waste land, which have during the last few years been furnished by the Revenue and Topographical surveys and by the Settlement department. The total population of the Central Provinces was returned at 9,104,511 souls. The statistics for the feudatory chiefships were not quite so reliable as those for British territory. If the inhabitants of those chiefships had been regularly counted, the total population would probably have reached nearly to nine and a quarter millions. This sum exceeds by about half a million the estimates based on the house-census of former years. Further testimony is thus added to the opinion that estimates of population, based on a house-census or on a mere general enquiry, are usually under the truth. The total area of the Central Provinces was returned at 114,718 square miles, of which 24,959 square miles were under the plough, and 89,759 were fallow, waste, hill, and forest. The density of the population in these Provinces may be thus compared with other countries. In these Provinces there are 79 souls to the square mile; in the North-Western Provinces there are 438; in the territories under the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal 311; in the Punjab there are 156 souls to the square mile.

Comparative density of population.

The alternations of density in different parts of the country were considerable. The population was thickest in the Nerbudda valley, and in the country round Nagpore; it was most sparse in the Sautpoora hill districts, and in the valley of the Mahanuddy.

Towns and Villages.

163. The number and size of the towns and villages of the Central Provinces are as follows:—

3 cities containing over 50,000 souls each; 8 towns containing from 10,000 to 50,000 souls each; 31 towns containing from 5,000 to 10,000 souls each; 712 towns containing from 1,000 to 5,000 souls each; 29,223 villages containing under 1,000 souls each.

Towns are most numerous in the country round Nagpore, where in the troublous times at the end of the last century, people were compelled for self-protection against the Pindarrees and other robber hordes, to cluster together round some fort or castle. In several towns of the Nagpore Province there are large colonies of the Koshtee (weaver) tribe, who settle in places possessing facilities for the exercise of their calling. It is observable that, though the total population according to the census, is considerably above previous estimates, yet the inhabitants of cities and towns are fewer than they formerly were. There seems little doubt, but that the urban population in these Provinces is really decreasing, save only at a few towns on the railway lines, or at one or two commer-

Decrease in urban population.

cial centres which have recently risen to importance. The causes of the exodus from towns would appear to be that the necessaries of life, though cheap nowhere, are yet somewhat less dear in the rural districts. Again, the price of the produce of land has risen vastly during the last few years. Additional labour and capital is being, year by year, employed in agriculture. Certain branches of manufacturing industry, on the other hand, such as cloth weaving and the like, are on the decline. Machine made goods are underselling the local hand-wove fabrics. And it is believed that hundreds or even thousands of families, who formerly dwelt in towns and lived by spinning or weaving, have during the last few years migrated to villages, and now support themselves by agriculture.

Its probable causes.

Proportion of sexes.

164. The population was divided, according to sexes and ages, as follows:—

Adult males	2,695,566
Adult females	2,712,480
Infant males	1,954,363
Infant females	1,742,102

For the purposes of these returns, children under fourteen years of age were reckoned as infants; all above that age were counted as adults. The inequality between the number of males and the number of females is much smaller in these Provinces than in other parts of India where a regular census has been taken; thus—

In the North Western Provinces the men are to the women				100 to 86·6
In the Punjab	„	„	„	100 to 81·8
In the Central Provinces	„	„	„	100 to 95·4

The proportion between males and females is more nearly equal among adults than among infants, from which it may perhaps be deduced that female infant life is better preserved than male infant life.

Return of Castes.

165. The total number of Europeans and East Indians is returned at 6,026 souls. The numbers belonging to the different castes or tribes were shown in the census returns. The Mussulmans numbered only 237,962 souls, thus forming an insignificant portion of the whole population. Among the more important agricultural castes, may be mentioned the Koonbees, numbering 676,270 souls, who constitute the main-stay of the agricultural community in the Nagpore country. The Lodhees, 234,767 souls, cultivate and own much land in the Nerbudda valley. Rajpoots are among the chief landowners of the Nerbudda country, and they number 241,748 souls. The Korihs, who have covered the Wyngunga valley with lakes and tanks, were returned at 139,776 souls. The Chumars, who in these Provinces are found only in Chutteesgurh, and who are the chief landholders there, number 518,389 souls.

Agricultural classes.

166. Among the artizan classes, the Koshtees, or cloth-weavers, are an important tribe. They live in the towns and cities of the Nagpore country, and weave the fine and ornamental fabrics which are well known all over the Deccan. They were returned at 101,590 souls. The Dhers, a tribe which has its members in every city, town and village, who weave and spin, work as farm servants, and as day labourers (coolies), are most useful people. They number 566,438 souls.

Artizan castes.

167. Among the aboriginal or hill tribes, the Gonds are the most numerous. They number altogether 1,469,355 souls. They abound chiefly in the hill tracts. In the districts of Seonee and Mundla they constitute nearly half the population. They own and cultivate land, doing their tillage after a careless, desultory fashion. The Bheels, returned at 25,454 souls, are chiefly found in the Nimar district. The Bygars of Mundla, and the Korkoos of Hoshungabad were also counted. The Mariah (or Maree) Gonds, who inhabit the country between the Wyngunga and Indrawuttee rivers, were returned at 36,663 souls. In the old maps this country was said to be "inhabited by Marees who live in trees." But more recent investigation has shown that this race is by no means so uncivilized as had been supposed. The total number of these aboriginal races, who differ widely in physiognomy, in language, in customs, and in creed from the Hindoo tribes around them, is 1,995,663 souls. They, most of them, subsist by raising the poorest kind of crops in forest lands, by cutting timber, by collecting forest produce, and by hunting. They are, some of them, taking to a more settled and steadier mode of living than was heretofore their custom. Much attention is now being directed to these interesting tribes, and papers upon their language, their religion, and their peculiar customs are published from time to time.

Aboriginal tribes.

168. Among the most interesting figures in the return of professions, into which the population, excluding Feudatoryships, is divided, were the following:—

Return of callings.

People engaged in agriculture ..	4,879,431
People not engaged in agriculture ..	3,582,381

It would thus seem that more than half, or 57 per cent of the whole population make their living directly from the soil. In the North-Western Provinces the proportion of agriculturists is larger, being 64 per cent; but in the Punjab the proportion is smaller, being only 56 per cent on the whole population. Among the commercial classes may be noticed the following:—

Bankers or money-dealers	52,405
Grain-sellers and tobacconists ..	77,419
Cloth and English goods merchants and petty dealers	75,126

Among the statistics of the artizan and miscellaneous professions, the subjoined figures may prove interesting:—

Workers in iron	79,491
do. in gold and silver	48,590
do. in copper and brass	13,621
Potters	47,097
Weavers and spinners	414,124
Carpenters	55,148
Masons and stone-workers	14,023
Shoemakers and leather-workers	122,148
Oil-makers and oil-sellers	59,350
Labourers (coolies, &c.)	949,867
Washermen	47,855
Carriers (Brinjarras)	41,833
Barbers	79,945
Servants, including officials and Government servants	537,564
Other non-agriculturists	875,775

Value of census results.

169. The statistical information obtained at the census, which has been described in this Chapter, may be regarded as reliable and interesting. The statistics will, it is hoped, form a valuable basis for future administrative and fiscal measures.

CHAPTER XIII.

JUBBULPORE EXHIBITION.

170. In last year's report a detailed notice was offered of the Exhibition of products and manufactures held at Nagpore in December 1865. It was also mentioned that, in order to give an abiding effect to the impressions left by the Nagpore show, another Exhibition would under the orders of the Supreme Government be held at Jubbulpore. This intention was carried out. Rs. 15,000 (£1,500) were granted to the Exhibition from the public revenues; Rs. 52,000 (£5,200) were contributed by private persons resident in the Central Provinces; and the various Local Committees gave about Rs. 25,000 (£2,500) more towards the Exhibition. The Central Committee of the Exhibition had thus about a lakh of rupees (£10,000) at their disposal. The period from April to December was spent in preparing the Exhibition grounds and buildings, in collecting and arranging articles. On the 26th December the Exhibition was opened in a handsome, domed edifice built for the occasion.

Exhibition of 1866.

171. The Nagpore Exhibition had been seen by the people of the districts round Nagpore, and of the whole country below the Sautpoora hills. A few of the wealthier inhabitants of the Saugor and Nerbudda territories also came. But the middle classes, the landowners and traders of the Nerbudda country, were not able to visit Nagpore. These people who, as a class, are well to do and intelligent, came in crowds to the Jubbulpore Exhibition. Only a few visitors came from below the Sautpoora hills. But Koonbees and Lodhees from the Nerbudda valley; Rajpoots from the Vindhyan country, from the borders of Bundelcund and Baghelcund; Gonds and other aboriginal tribes from the wilds of Mundla and Seonee, were present on the occasion. Over 20,000 people visited the Exhibition, and the ground and buildings were crowded during the hours for which the Exhibition was open to the public. The contrast between the outward garb of the visitors at Nagpore and at Jubbulpore attested that the two Exhibitions were attended by different races of men. The crowd at Nagpore presented the appearance of a sea of red turbans and white calico coats; the breadth of the turbans being greater or less, according as its wearer was a native of the Deccan or of the Nagpore country. At Jubbulpore the long, padded, green tunics, worn by the men of Bundelcund and Baghelcund alternated with the quilted, light-green jackets of the people of the

For the Nerbudda country.

Aspect of the visitors.

Nerbudda valley. The head-dress of the Jubbulpore Native visitors was either a close fitting skull cap, covering the ears and cheek bones in the case of the Bundeelas; or a small, ill-tied, white calico turban in the case of the men of the Nerbudda country.

Exhibition arrangements.

172. A separate report, with a selection of papers regarding the Exhibition and the products and manufactures displayed there, has been submitted to the Supreme Government. It may, however, be well to notice here a few of the most interesting articles. There were six groups, namely:—

I.—Live-stock.
II.—Machinery.
III.—Raw produce.
IV.—Forest and mineral products.
V.—Manufactures.
VI.—Fine Arts.

Live-stock.

173. The live-stock was shown in pens, over which an awning of matting had been stretched. The show of cattle was very good, as indeed it always should be where bullocks do all the ploughing, and all the carrying work of the country. The largest, and most blood looking animals were the bulls of Mysore and Nellore breeds, which Local Committees have bought for breeding purposes. Smaller in size, but still of excellent form, were the prize bullocks from Nagpore. Indeed, it would seem that for plough work in black soil, and for rapid draught, a well-bred pair of Nagpore bullocks is as good as could be. But the average cattle of an ordinary farmer are, as yet, much inferior to the best Nagpore breeds. The prizes obtained by cattle owners at the Jubbulpore Exhibition were of considerable amount, and may stimulate breeders to improve their stock. The show of sheep was small; some of the specimens were good, but they belonged to European gentlemen and were stall fed. The Government sheep farm at Dumoh gained a prize for its show of lambs. There were more native bred horses at the Jubbulpore Exhibition than at Nagpore. Horse-breeding, indeed, has always been carried on to some extent in parts of the Nerbudda valley. Some of the mares with foals, bred by landowners, possessed both blood and bone. The prize mare was from the Wurdah district. On the whole, it would seem that horse-breeding, which has been for a score of years almost unknown in the districts below the Sautpoora hills, may again come into favour with the people.

Machinery.

174. Two spacious halls were filled with machinery of European make. And in the space between these buildings hydraulic machines worked by bullocks, and driven by steam were exhibited. The show of agricultural, carpentry, iron work, and hydraulic machinery was really good. The Exhibition Committee rightly judged this department to be very impor-

tant. They sent to Calcutta one of their number to select machines, which might be usefully shown to the people; and they guaranteed the firms who contributed machinery from loss. In this way a large and suitable assortment of machines was secured, comprising steam pumps, steam saws, and carpentry machines; winnowing and threshing machines; mills for grinding and sifting flour; machines for cutting and punching iron; cotton gins, and presses. Some of these were driven by steam, some by bullock, and some by hand power. They were worked from time to time in the presence of wondering crowds and their mechanism and scope were explained to the spectators. As some evidence of the interest taken in this portion of the show, it may be stated that nearly 50,000 rupees (£5,000) worth of the articles exhibited in this department were bought. Some of the useful machines shown at Jubbulpore, are now at work in towns and villages of the different districts.

Raw produce.

175. The show of raw produce was very large, and was moreover very well arranged. The building set apart for this group was well lighted and excellently adapted for its display. The first prize for wheat was won by a sample from the Hoshungabad district. Not only did the best specimen of wheat come from Hoshungabad, but the whole collection of wheat samples sent from Hoshungabad was adjudged by the Jury to be much superior to the contributions from any other district. It is somewhat noteworthy that wheat from this district has now won the first prize at four Exhibitions, in different parts of the country, namely, at Lucknow, Nagpore, Jubbulpore and Agra. The excellence would appear to belong to the whole district, and not to the yield of any particular village; for the Hoshungabad exhibitors, who gained the first prizes on these occasions, have been different each time. The display of rice was large, and the general average merit of the samples was high. The first prizes were won by the lake districts of Bhundara and Chanda. The show of raw cottons was varied and extensive. The Hingunghat staple maintained its position as the best of indigenous cottons. The Cotton Commissioner exhibited an interesting assortment of cotton specimens from all parts of the world. The pulses and oil seeds were fairly represented. Among tubers, some fine potatoes, averaging over half a pound weight each, deservedly attracted attention. They were grown on the Chindwara hills from English seed.

Forest products.

176. The "forest and mineral products" of the Central Provinces were shown in the same hall with the raw produce. The Government Forest department made an excellent display, with its trophy of timbers, and its cabinets of miscellaneous forest fruits, drugs, fibres and resins. Some of the fibres were exceedingly good, but they are not, as yet, collected in sufficient quantity to form an article of trade. Next after timber and bamboos, the most important products of our forests, commercially speaking, are the resins. Stick lac, shell lac, and lac-dye were exhibited; the raw article being found in abundance in all our forest districts. Other important

and useful resins, such as the dammer from the saul tree *(shorea robusta)* were also represented. Among minerals, coal occupied the most important place. Specimens of excellent coal came from the Chindwara and Nursingpore districts. The first prize was won by a sample of coal, from an outcrop discovered last year at Sirgoree, in Chindwara, by Major Ashburner, who detected the seam in the side of a well. This Sirgoree coal also gained a prize at the Agra Exhibition. Excellent specimens of iron ore, and smelted iron were exhibited from the districts of Bhundara, Nursingpore, Chanda and Nimar. The trophies of building stones, contributed from the Jubbulpore, Chanda and Nagpore districts, were particularly fine. The mineral department of the Exhibition appeared to possess more interest than any other in the eyes of European visitors from other parts of India.

Minerals.

177. Among the articles in Group V, "manufactures," the contributions from other parts of India excelled, as indeed it was to be expected they should, the manufactures of the Central Provinces. The branches in which indigenous talent came out best, were cloth-weaving, and carving in wood and stone. The fine cotton cloths of the Nagpore country, and the embroidered cloths of Boorhanpore (in Nimar) have long been prized in this part of India. Many excellent specimens of these fabrics were contributed to the Jubbulpore Exhibition. The cutlery made by a Native of Nagpore, and the rope turned out at the workshops of Her Majesty's 1st Royal Regiment, were also the best things of their kind. Among articles contributed from places outside the Central Provinces may be mentioned the furniture from Calcutta and Madras, the glass-work from Messrs. Osler & Co., in Calcutta, carved wood-work and inlaid ivory work from Bombay; muslin from Madras, Cashmere shawls and pushmeenas from Amritsir; porcelain and china-ware from Mr. Read's factory at Colgong, in Behar; ornamental pottery from Lucknow; and a varied assortment of French manufactures contributed by M. Le-Chevalier Thenon, Consul of France.

Manufactures.

178. Articles belonging to the "fine arts" department were shown in the central hall, with its domed roof, and in an *annexe* especially built for displaying pictures. The jurors gave special praise to the stone carving exhibited from the Saugor and Chanda districts. The best specimen in this branch of art was a piece of stone-work which had been prepared by Native workmen from Native designs for the adornment of a temple in an outlying village of Saugor. By chance the Deputy Commissioner saw the carving, and induced its owner to exhibit it at Jubbulpore before it was finally erected in the temple. Several small pieces of workmanship, in gold, silver, marble, and stone, made by Native workmen especially for this occasion, possessed much merit. They showed indeed that Native craftsmen can turn out things of beauty and taste, if only sufficient

Fine arts.

inducement be offered. The peculiar skill which is fostered in the neighbourhood of Native Courts, has not, it would seem, entirely died out. In the picture gallery were oil paintings, photographs coloured with oils, engravings, chromolithographs, and water-colour drawings. Some of these were of great merit, they were all interesting. No collection nearly approaching in excellence to the Jubbulpore show of pictures had been seen in this part of India before.

Effects left by the Exhibition.

179. In last year's report a confident hope was expressed that Exhibitions of this sort do leave good results behind them. The experience of this, the second Exhibition, would seem to show that this hope was not without warrant. In some branches of manufacture there was a marked improvement in the Jubbulpore as compared with the Nagpore Exhibition. The advance was the more marked in those departments of industry, which receive European supervision. By cattle breeders also, and growers of produce, much encouragement and instruction was also derived. These Exhibitions have also been instrumental in bringing landowners to purchase and use hydraulic and agricultural machinery. The advantage which the extended use of machinery of this kind will cause to the country generally, is immense. To the officials and to the people themselves also these Exhibitions have been a means of teaching what the country, in which they live and work, can and does yield.

On the whole, there seems ground for believing that the seed of enlightenment, and perhaps of material advancement, has been broadly and deeply sown by the two Exhibitions which have been held in these Provinces during the years 1866 and 1867.

CHAPTER XIV.

MISCELLANEOUS.

SECTION I.—AGRICULTURE.

Area under the several crops.

180. Until the land revenue settlement shall have been completed and reported upon for all districts, reliable statistics of agriculture will not be attained for the whole of the Central Provinces. But so far as the Settlement has progressed, it is shown that in 15 of the 18 districts the area under autumn sowings, in the season 1864-65, was 4,616,035 acres, and under spring sowings 4,271,370 acres, distributed thus:—

Autumn crops...	Cotton ...	610,255 acres
	Rice ...	1,472,656 „
	Jowaree (millet)	1,246,749 „
	Oil-seeds ...	200,270 „
	Miscellaneous	1,086,105 „
Spring crops ...	Wheat ...	2,843,414 „
	Gram (chenna)	567,214 „
	Oil-seeds ...	265,685 „
	Sugarcane ...	59,779 „
	Opium ...	7,584 „
	Tobacco ...	14,888 „
	Miscellaneous	512,806 „

The above may be accepted as a general approximate measure of the appropriation of cultivated land to the different kinds of crops in these Provinces. The largest proportion is taken by wheat, then follow rice and jowaree (millet), the three staples collectively occupying about two-thirds of the cultivated land. Cotton takes up about one fifteenth, principally in the valley of the Wurdah, where, however, it occupies about two-fifths of the quantity of land reserved for the autumn harvests. Pulses take up one-ninth, oil-seeds one-twentieth of the whole area under the plough. Opium cultivation, recently set free from a local impost, has increased from seven to twelve thousand acres in the past year. If dealers were to arrange satisfactorily for the local manufacture of opium in the form required for foreign export, the

cultivation might extend indefinitely. Some attention has been given to the cultivation of sugarcane, which is a very paying crop, by the distribution among cultivators of superior kinds of foreign seed.

Agricultural machinery.

181. No very marked success has yet attended the importation of European agricultural machinery in these Provinces. Every district has purchased some machines to be exhibited as models, and occasionally worked for the instruction of the cultivating classes. A few of the more wealthy landholders have themselves purchased irrigating and other agricultural machinery at the Exhibitions held at Nagpore and Jubbulpore.

Propagation of trees and plants.

182. The Agri-Horticultural Society of Nagpore continues its efforts as reported in past years. It imports foreign varieties of useful seeds and plants for experiment in its large garden, and for distribution to district gardens and native cultivators. From its well stocked nurseries many thousands of young seedlings have been supplied to form avenues on the station roads and along the roads in the interior. The propagation of the *Casuarina* for this purpose, literally by the thousand, has been a great success. For the first time since horticulture has been practised in these Provinces, the Cypress and Bamboo were last year raised from imported seed. The former particularly was a very rare tree in these parts, and was to be found only in the gardens of the wealthy; high prices indeed were paid for Cypress trees to the Cabul itinerant merchants who occasionally brought down a few hundred seedlings for sale. The tree may now become as common as it is ornamental. Several hundred seedlings of the *Eucalyptus*, better known perhaps as the Australian blue gums, were coming on very promisingly in the Society's garden, but few have outlived the heat of last summer. At the last meeting of the Society the attention of the Administration was drawn to the large exportation of the Nagpore orange (sungtra) to the Bombay market since the opening of the railway, and to the advisability of recommending orange culture to market gardeners in the districts through which the railway line runs. The Deputy Commissioners have accordingly been requested to make the growing demand for oranges widely known. The fame of this fruit has been long established—in a note left by the late General Jenkins, a great promoter of horticulture and one of the earliest members of the Agri-Horticultural Society of India, the Nagpore *sungtras* are said to be "undoubtedly the finest oranges in India."

Agri-Horticultural Society's finances.

183. The proceedings of the Society, containing much interesting matter, are periodically published for general information. At the close of the year the Society numbered 154 members, of whom 41 are natives. The income of the year, including the grant-in-aid from Government of Rs. 1,200 (£120) per annum, was Rs. 7,738 (£774) and the expenditure Rs. 8,538 (£854).

Gardens at outlying districts.

184. The public gardens at the head-quarters of districts are reported generally as in good order. They are maintained by grants from local funds and private subscriptions. Their operations are annually reviewed in a separate report which is published for general information.

SECTION II.—COTTON.

Cotton season.

185. The season of 1866-67 was generally favourable to the cotton crop. Rain fell seasonably at the sowing time, and while the plant was growing; no rain fell after the bolls began to appear, until the cotton pickings were nearly completed. The out-turn of cotton, both as to quantity and as to quality, was better than had been known for some years.

Area under cotton crop.

186. The area under cotton cultivation, for the seasons of 1865-66 and 1866-67, may be thus compared.—

	Acres sown with cotton.	
	1865-66.	1866-67.
In the Nerbudda valley north of the Sautpoora range of hills	229,652	192,054
In the Nagpore country south of the hills	289,189	318,932
In the Chutteesgurh and Mahanuddy country	68,557	100,736
Total ...	587,398	611,722

There has thus been a considerable increase in the amount of land sown with cotton in the Nagpore country, which is the most important and best known cotton tract in these Provinces. The recent general fall in the price of cotton had more effect in contracting cotton sowings in the Nerbudda valley, than in the Nagpore country. The reason would appear to be, that the Nerbudda cotton, being inferior to and less remunerative than the Nagpore (Hingunghat) variety, was displaced by cereals, which ruled at extraordinarily high prices at the sowing season of 1866.

The season's out-turn.

187. The average yield of cleaned cotton per acre was reckoned in last year's report, at from 50 to 60lbs. for the Nagpore country, and at from 40 to 45lbs. for the rest of the Central Provinces. The approximate correctness of

this estimate has, during the past year, received much confirmation from several carefully conducted experiments. Indeed, if the estimate errs at all, the error would be that the average out-turn of an acre of cotton in the Nagpore country, in good years, is somewhat understated. At these rates the aggregate out-turn of the season would be about 32¾ millions of pounds of clean cotton, or 81,000 bales of 400lbs. each. About 7½ millions of pounds, or 18,370 bales of cotton were brought into these Provinces during the year 1866-67, from Berar, from the Nizam's territory, and from other parts of India, in order that they might be despatched to Bombay under the name of "Hingunghat." Out of the whole 40 million pounds thus available, 29 million pounds, or 72,990 bales were exported from these Provinces towards Bombay.

Cotton Commissioner's appointment.

188. Much has been done during the year 1866-67 towards developing cotton cultivation, and advancing the cotton trade of the Central Provinces. In September 1866, the post of Cotton Commissioner for the Central Provinces and the Berars was constituted, and Mr. Rivett-Carnac, who had gained much knowledge of cotton affairs and of cotton growers while settling the land tax of the chief cotton districts, was appointed to the office. His duty was, as laid down by Mr. Temple, to be,—

Firstly, the improvement of cotton cultivation, whether by the introduction of exotic cotton, or by the further development of the indigenous plant.

Secondly, the amendment of the processes of picking, cleaning, and packing by which cotton is prepared for the market.

Thirdly, the perfecting of arrangements for the transport of cotton to the sea-board.

Improvement of cotton culture.

189. A separate report regarding the Cotton Commissioner's operations will be laid before the Supreme Government. But it may be well to offer here a brief resumé of the year's operations under the three headings mentioned in the foregoing paragraph. *Firstly*, with reference to cotton cultivation. In last year's report was given a summary of the measures undertaken to

Introduction of exotic cotton.

introduce into the Wurdah district acclimatized New Orleans cotton. The experiments were so far successful that the plants came up well, and bore a fairly remunerative crop. During the year 1866-67 the experiments were continued, and results obtained were better than in the preceding year. Five fields, with an aggregate area of 34 acres, were sown with the acclimatized New Orleans seed gained from the preceding year's experiments. The

plants came up well, and they yielded an average of 64lbs. of clean cotton per acre. The fibre was pronounced by Bombay dealers to be fine and clean, though not so strong as the Dharwar acclimatized cotton. 133 acres were sown with this seed by the landholders; the results of their experiments were various. In some fields a large yield, considerably heavier than the average yield of indigenous cotton, was obtained; while in other fields the experiment was comparatively speaking a failure. Even, after the carefully conducted experiments of the last two years, it is still doubtful whether acclimatized New Orleans cotton is,—considering all the circumstances of the soil, the people, and the rain-fall,—better suited to the Wurdah country than the indigenous plant. The experiments under Government Agency will be continued; and some landholders, who found the foreign cotton pay, will again plant it. But no special efforts will be made to extend its culture; and the acclimatized New Orleans cotton must be left to compete with the indigenous variety, and to make its way, if it can, by its own merits.

Improvement of the indigenous cotton.

190. The efforts of the Cotton Commissioner, and those working with him, have not been confined to the introduction of what may, or may not be a better variety of cotton. Much has been done both by precept and example to induce the cotton growers of the Hinguñghat country to improve the native. Three consecutive years of patient effort in this direction are now bearing fruit; and it is considered that, in respect of weeding cotton fields, and of picking the cotton promptly and regularly, much improvement is apparent. One great cause for this amendment on the old practice is the presence in the country of European merchants, who pay higher for well picked cotton. In respect of rotation of crops and of selection of seed, the people of the Hinguñghat country have evinced much practical sense. They are now beginning to reserve for next year's sowings the seed of the largest bolls and the strongest plants. Cotton gardens, under the supervision of Government Officers, are also being established for the culture of pedigree cotton, from which a large quantity of first-rate seed will be available for cotton growers.

Extension of the Hinguñghat variety.

191. Though the Hinguñghat cotton,—being, as it is, the best native cotton in India,—does not need to be displaced by other varieties; there are other parts of these Provinces, such as the Nerbudda valley, the Chutteesgurh country, and Sumbulpore, where the indigenous cotton is below the average of western India. Into these districts the Cotton Commissioner has begun to introduce Hinguñghat cotton. To this end he purchased selected parcels of cotton seed, and sent them to ten of the principal cotton districts. This seed has been sold at cost price to cotton growers; and several thousands of acres in the Sangor and Nerbudda country and in Nimar, are now being sown with Hinguñghat seed. Cotton gardens for the production of pedigree

cotton seed have also been formed at the head-quarters of each cotton growing district. The result of these measures will be seen next year; but judging from experience in the adjacent province of Khandeish, the substitution of superior Indian varieties for an inferior indigenous cotton, will be a success. On the Cotton Commissioner devolved the business of selecting, buying, and despatching Hingunghat seed, not only for our own districts, but also for the Berars, for Khandeish, and other parts of the Bombay Presidency. Small parcels of Hingunghat seed were asked for by, and supplied to certain districts of Oudh and the North-Western Provinces. The total amount of selected Hingunghat seed distributed by the Cotton Commissioner in this manner amounted to about eight hundred tons, an amount which will suffice to sow 200,000 acres. About one-eighth of the whole was taken by districts of the Central Provinces. The remainder went to other territories.

Preparation of the staple for market.

192. *Secondly*, in regard to improving the processes by which cotton is prepared for the market. The main difficulties have been that Indian cotton is dirty and full of leaf, and that it is not properly packed for transport. Cotton contracts dirt in many ways, but chiefly from the careless or dilatory picking of the fibre from the bush, from imperfect ginning, and from being exposed for sale in dusty, ill-regulated market places. In respect of promptitude and regularity in picking cotton, improvement is already apparent. The business of ginning has, for years back, been more carefully done at Hingunghat than in any other cotton tract of Central India. But the operation is a slow one, and the gins of the country are clumsy. Effort has been made to introduce improved gins; almost every known kind of hand gin has been tried; but, as yet, no really satisfactory hand gin, which could take the place of the native gin (churka), has been found. There is more than one kind of gin which cleans cotton admirably when worked by steam or bullock power. The introduction of ginning machinery into these Provinces is now beginning. Much has been done for the improvement of cotton marts; and there are now in the best cotton growing districts many market places, where suitable yards paved with stone have been enclosed, in which cotton can be kept with a minimum of risk of fire, and of injury from dust or dirt.

Pressing machinery.

193. Much has also been done, during the year 1866-67, towards removing the difficulty in the way of packing cotton for transport. In the first instance, the Local Committees had to purchase such cotton presses as were available, to set them up, and to work them. In this way several wooden presses, of the kind known as half-presses, have been set up in the cotton districts through which the railway passes. Convenient machinery for weighing cotton, as well as appliances for lashing and packing bales have also been provided. At first, the local dealers would not set up

presses of their own, and were even backward in bringing their bales to the half-presses set up by the Local Committees. As the season wore on, and the stocks of cotton awaiting transport to Bombay became greater, merchants saw that the Railway Company gave a preference to pressed bales, and they began to bring their bales to the presses, which soon had more work than they could do. The habit of pressing bales has now taken root, the Local Fund Committees are disposing of their presses to private parties; a full power press is being set up at Hingunghat by a European Firm; and before long, all the cotton exported from the Central Provinces will be pressed or half pressed before despatch.

Transport of cotton by Railway.

194. *Thirdly*, in regard to perfecting arrangements for the transport of cotton to the sea-board. Cotton finds its way along the new metalled roads, or along cross country tracks to the several railway stations. But, as the whole crop is ready for transport to Bombay within the three spring months, the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company finds difficulty in carrying away at once in its waggons all the cotton that comes to its stations. In order to assist the railway traffic department, cotton yards were established at each railway station. All the cotton coming for transport was registered, and stacked as it came; allotments of waggons were to be made to cotton dealers according to priority of arrival; and special arrangements were made to prevent or extinguish fires in the cotton yard. This system, first introduced by Mr. Cordery, Deputy Commissioner of Akola, in Berar, has been found to work well, so long as the railway traffic department fulfils its part of the arrangement. Unfairness on the part of station masters is prevented; the amount of cotton awaiting transport at each station is known; and the traffic department of the railway can make its plans accordingly. Thanks to the special exertions of the railway authorities, nearly all the cotton of the season 1866-67 had been conveyed to Bombay before the end of April 1867.

Cotton Frauds Act.

195. Another measure very important in its bearing upon the Hingunghat cotton trade has been advanced a stage during the year 1866-67. The staple of the Nagpore country bears so much superior a name to other cottons of Northern and Central India, that there is much temptation for dealers to bring Nerbudda, or other cheap and inferior cottons to Hingunghat; to mix them with the real Hingunghat article, and then send the whole down to Bombay under the name of "Hingunghats." Practices of this sort have already to some extent prevailed. But the door for such frauds will be much wider, now that bales are pressed at Hingunghat for export beyond the seas. During the past season some mixed cotton of this kind went down to Bombay from the Wurdah district; and there is risk of the Hingunghat cotton losing its good name if such malpractices continue. As the law now stands they cannot be prevented. But there is an enactment in force in the Bombay

Presidency, known as the "Cotton Frauds Act," which makes penal the adulteration of cotton; and provides funds and an agency for watching every bale of cotton that is pressed, and for affixing to it a stamp descriptive of its contents. The Supreme Government has under consideration a bill for extending this Act to the Central Provinces; and the Bombay Legislature has before it a bill for placing some portion of the special Cotton Frauds Act fund at the disposal of this Administration. In this way it will be possible to have a staff of Cotton Inspectors ready by next cotton season to check the adulteration of Hingunghat cotton, and to prevent the grosser kinds of fraud, such as placing stones or mud in the middle of bales, which become possible wherever full power presses are set up.

SECTION III.—ARBORICULTURE.

Rearing and planting of trees.

196. Steady progress has been made in the planting of groves and avenues along the imperial and district roads in these Provinces. The following is an abstract of the results obtained in the past and previous years :—

	Up to close of 1865-66.	*During* 1866-67.
Nurseries established	279 ..	122
Number of miles of avenue planted	562½ ..	243¾
Number of groves	229 ..	103

The number of trees planted out during the past year, either in places where trees planted in previous years had perished or been destroyed, or in new lengths of avenue, was 133,645. Of this number 71,745 were raised in the Belaspore district from seed sown in the spot where the tree was to grow. This mode of raising avenues is reported to be both economical and successful. In Saugor, on the contrary, where indeed arboriculture has from the first been perseveringly and systematically extended, the most approved plan was found to be the planting out of trees from the nurseries when they were from 2 to 3 years old. The system of rearing avenues from cuttings of varieties of the *Ficus* species have been tried in almost all the districts and invariably failed. The plan of watering trees along miles of avenue by means of moisture, supplied through the pores of an earthen pot sunk in the soil near the roots of the plant, and replenished every 15 or 20 days, is favorably reported on by all the Deputy Commissioners who have tried it. The Deputy Commissioner of Saugor only, finds the arrangment fail; he employs a Bhistee (water carrier) and a gardener on every mile of road during

the dry months. The statistics, however, are not so complete as to show which is the most economical system *in the end.*

Avenues planted by landholders.

197. Hoshungabad, Nagpore and Wurdah are the only districts in which landholders have undertaken the care of trees in avenues and groves for cash remuneration; Rs. 1,631 having thus been paid in the year for the care of 49 miles of avenue and 13 groves. In some other districts landholders took up the work on the understanding that they should enjoy the usufruct of the trees. There were thus altogether under the care of landholders at the close of the year, 269½ miles of avenue and 253 groves.

Expenditure of Local Committees.

198. The expenditure from local funds in all districts on account of the above operations was Rs. 38,998. In the previous year it was Rs. 30,666

Arboriculture by Public Works Department.

199. The tree planting operations conducted by the Public Works Department may be thus stated. Up to the close of 1865-66 there were 155½ miles of avenue and 9 groves planted; during 1866-67 there were 38½ miles of avenue and 14 groves planted. The expenditure was Rs. 16,376 and Rs. 18,311 in the two years respectively.

Total outlay on Arboriculture.

200. The total expenditure on arboriculture from Local Funds and from the general revenues was thus Rs. 49,399, and may be thus compared with the expenditure of the previous year:—

	From Local Funds.		*From general Revenues.*	
	1865-66.	1866-67.	1865-66.	1866-67.
By the Civil authorities	26,186	31,088	0	0
By the Public Works Dept.	4,480	7,910	12,049	10,401

Section IV.—Waste Lands.

Area of Government waste lands.

201. The waste lands belonging to Government extend over about twenty-four thousand square miles of these Provinces. Nearly the whole of this area has been marked off in a permanent manner. Detailed registers, descriptive of the plots into which the waste lands are divided, have been prepared for eight districts. These registers are from time to time published in the Local Official Gazette.

Sales of waste lands.

202. During the year 1866-67 sixty-five plots, aggregating 46,269 acres of land were sold in fee simple under the waste land sale rules. The price realized was Rs. 1,28,893 (£12,889) or an average of Rs. 2-1-3 (4s.-1¾d.) an acre. The purchasers of waste lands are principally natives of India; and they come forward chiefly for waste plots in the more populous districts. Hitherto but little waste land has been taken up in the thinly populated districts of Mundla, Chanda, and Sumbulpore, where large tracts of excellent virgin land abound. Recently, however, a European settler of capital has applied for a large area of waste land in the Mundla district, close to a tributary of the Nerbudda. His purpose is to establish a large stock breeding farm. As the place is within sixty miles of the station, cantonment, and railway at Jubbulpore, there is good hope for success in such a venture. If it should prove remunerative, a further demand may perhaps spring up for the waste lands of Bijiragogurh and tracts situated near railway lines.

Clearance leases.

203. In last year's report it was mentioned that rules had been promulgated, whereby land could be taken on clearance leases. About a hundred applications for land have been made under these rules, but as yet no grants have been completed, as the applications were made too late in the year. Meanwhile, the land already under cultivation and the private wastes are more than sufficient to occupy the capital and labour of the whole agricultural population; so that there is no urgent necessity that Government wastes should be bought, or taken up on clearance lease. The usufruct of the natural products of Government wastes is annually leased out; and a rapidly increasing revenue is realized from this source.

Section V.—Mineral Resources.

Iron.

204. In previous reports has been described the richness of these Provinces in iron ores and in coal. The iron continues to be worked largely after the Native method; indeed the smelting of iron ore constitutes one of the principal industries of the Wyngunga valley. A collection of iron ores, and of smelted iron from the Bhundara district, gained the first medal at the Agra Exhibition of February 1867. At present iron is not worked anywhere in these Provinces after the European method. The iron works at Burwai, in Nimár, which were described in a previous report, are still disused. The Nerbudda Coal and Iron Company has not yet begun to work the Tendookhera iron mines.

205. In last year's report it was mentioned that extensive discoveries of coal had been made in the Chindwara district, where eleven workable out-crops had been found; and that coal had also been found on the Wurdah river in the Chanda district. These discoveries have been prosecuted still further during the year 1866-67. Major Ashburner, to whose enterprise and research our extended knowledge of the Chindwara coal fields is mainly due, was deputed on special duty to trace the coal out-crops as far south as he could. The Chindwara coal fields, large though they be, are yet more than 70 miles from the nearest railway station, and between them and the railway, there is the main slope (ghat) of the Sautpoora hill range. If coal could be found south of the hills, such out-crops would be infinitely valuable, as they would be within 40 miles of Nagpore, and would be separated from the railway by no natural obstacles. Major Ashburner's investigations have resulted in the discovery of some thirty-four new out-crops of coal. Some of these are to the south of the coal fields previously known; but he has not succeeded in tracing the coal seams to the foot, or even to the crest of the Sautpoora slopes. One of the seams of coal discovered this year was 8 feet in thickness. So far as can be judged from our present information it would seem that the Chindwara coal field stretches from the Nerbudda coal seams on the north, under or slightly to the east of the Puchmurree hills, and thence westwards into the Baitool district. A Company, with a sufficient capital, has applied for a mining license over a portion of the Chindwara coal fields. Their application is under the consideration of the Government of India.

Chindwara, or Pench Valley coal.

206. The Nerbudda Coal Company at Mohpani is making suitable preparations in order that it may be ready to deliver large quantities of coal, directly the Great Indian Peninsula Railway opens to the Gadurwara station. The Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company have made arrangements for testing the Towa valley coal during the current year, and for ascertaining whether it can be worked at remunerative rates. A careful examination was also made by the employés of the same Railway Company into the coal out-crops on the Shere river, at a spot some eighteen miles south of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, and about thirty miles west of Jubbulpore. It is not yet certain whether this coal would pay for working.

Nerbudda coal.

207. Further examination has also been made of the Chanda coal field; and the Deputy Commissioner has succeeded in finding more out-crops, where the coal is of a much better quality than in the previously discovered seams. Mr. Blanford, of the Geological Survey, was able to examine this coal field during the current year. He considers that the best of the seams, yet brought to light, is on the right bank of the Wurdah in the Nizam's

Chanda coal.

Territory. It is considered probable, however, that this same seam may be found on the left bank in the Chanda district; and borings are being made with a view to verifying this anticipation. A careful analysis of the Chanda coals above alluded to, yielded the following results :—

	Bullarpore seam.		*Googoose seam.*
	average	*best*	
Percentage of carbon ..	50·2	49·9	40·
„ „ volatile matter	39·	42·4	43·5
„ „ ash	9·8	7·7	16·5

The coal therefore, though much inferior to the best English coals, is yet not far behind, in some most important qualities, the Raneegunj coal, which is now burnt in locomotives on the whole length of the East Indian Railway.

Sandstone rocks round Nagpore examined.

208. It having been deemed possible that coal might be found underlying the sandstone where it crops out at several spots in the neighbourhood of Nagpore, Mr. Blanford of the Geological Survey devoted six weeks to a careful examination of all the sandstone rocks near Nagpore, or in the direction of the Chindwara coal fields. The result of these investigations was to make it certain that there were no indications of coal on or near the surface at those localities. A careful comparison of the fossils found in these rocks, with the fossils of sandstone beds where coal is actually found, led to the conclusion that coal would not be found below the sandstone, and it was deemed inadvisable to incur the expense of trial borings.

Importance of these coal discoveries.

209. Notwithstanding the absence of coal in the sandstone rocks around Nagpore, the year 1866-67 has been very fruitful in discoveries of useful, workable coal seams. When it is borne in mind that none of the coal seams adverted to in this Chapter, are more than 80 miles distant from the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Line; and that English coal is now being burnt in the locomotives on this line, at a cost on the Nagpore length of as much as 40 rupees (£4) a ton; the probable future value of the Central Provinces' coal fields becomes very apparent.

Slates.

210. Slates of different kinds were discovered, during the year 1866-67, both in the Chindwara and the Chanda districts. But the cleavage of the slates, yet found, is not sufficiently good to make the discovery of practical use. Lithographic stone of a serviceable kind has been found in the Raepore district, and stones of local manufacture have already come into general use at the lithographic presses of the Raepore Jail. The building stones of the Chanda and Jubbulpore districts, maintained their name for excellence, by gaining prizes at the Agra and Jubbulpore Exhibition.

Section VI.—Survey.

211. During the year 1866-67 four parties of the Revenue Survey and two of the Topographical Survey have been at work in these Provinces. One of the Topographical parties transferred its operations during the past year from the Upper Godavery district to the Sautpoora hill country. Besides contributing first-rate geographical material, this party will effect a detailed survey of the more important forest reserves. Two parties of the Great Trigonometrical Survey were also employed in these Provinces; the one party is carrying out certain pendulum experiments in the centre of the Indian Peninsula; while the other is carrying a line drawn from the north to the south of India.

212. The result of the labours of the Revenue and Topographical Survey parties during the season 1866-67, may be thus shown:—

	Square miles surveyed.
by professional Revenue Survey ...	3,796
by Topographical Survey ...	800
Total...	4,596

During the year under report doubts arose regarding the accuracy of some revenue survey work done in previous years. After a careful investigation, portions of this survey turned out to be incorrect, and had therefore to be done over again.

213. Progress has also been made in bringing out maps of the tracts surveyed. Maps of the Saugor and Jubbulpore districts, on a scale of four miles to the inch, have been published during the year 1866-67. A first-rate map of the Nagpore and Wurdah districts, on a scale of two miles to the inch, showing all village boundaries has been lithographed. This map has already been of much practical use in the revenue department. Several sheets of sub-divisional maps, on a scale of one inch to a mile have also been struck off. The Surveyor General has also published a map on a scale of 16 miles to an inch, of the Central Provinces, compiled from existing information. The map is of a very useful size; but it omits much information which it might contain. These omissions the Surveyor General is about to supply in a second edition of the map, which he has kindly undertaken to bring out.

Section VII.—Fairs.

Fairs.

214. The periodical fairs held in different parts of the country, continue to receive the attention of the local authorities, and provision is always made for the protection of life and property by the stationing of Police parties in them. At the larger gatherings the Deputy Commissioner or his Assistant is usually present. Conservancy arrangements also receive attention.

215. During the year 1866-67, 61 fairs were held; and from the statistics collected on the spot, it is estimated that the aggregate value of property brought for sale was, Rs. 62,51,191 (£625,119); of which Rs. 37,79,230 (£377,923) worth was sold. These sales comprised English piece-goods and miscellaneous European articles worth Rs. 7,31,676 (£73,167), country manufactured articles worth Rs. 14,20,377 (£142,038), horses and ponies worth Rs. 16,506 (£1,650), cattle and sheep worth Rs. 5,99,511 (£59,951), and raw produce worth Rs. 9,21,056 (£92,106). The number of persons attending all these fairs is estimated at 1,583,970.

Merchandise at Fairs.

Section VIII.—Trade Statistics.

216. So much has been said in other parts of this report on the circumstances of the year, the harvests, and the revolution, so to speak, in the trade of the country caused by the railway, that it will suffice in this Section, if my remarks are confined to the gross commercial results of the year as exhibited by the trade returns. It will be remembered that the figures now offered are for eleven months of the year, viz. from July 1866 to May 1867. The returns had to be closed a month earlier than usual to admit of the information being collated in time for incorporation in this report.

217. The totals of the exterior export and import trade, that is, the trade of the Central Provinces with other countries and provinces, may be thus shown:—

	Tons.	*Value in £.*
Imports	117,010 ...	4,642,063
Exports	77,931 ...	4,340,491
Total ...	194,941 ..	8,982,554

This shows a considerable increase on previous years. But the returns for the year include a large quantity of what does not belong to the trade proper of the country, such as opium passing through Nimar from Malwa to Bombay, besides large quantities of Government stores and Railway plant. If these be excluded, we may compare the traffic of the year 1866-67 with the three preceding years, thus:—

	Tons.	*Value in £.*
1863-64	102,341	3,909,008
1864-65	134,719 ...	4,386,251
1865-66	136,265 ...	5,519,766
1866-67	175,561 ..	6,517,864

218. The direction of this trade, or the countries with which it is carried on, may be seen at a glance from the following abstract of the returns:—

			Tons.	*Rupees.*	£.
West ..	Trade with Bombay, Berar, &c.	Imports ..	75,366	2,44,35,927	2,443,593
		Exports ..	46,600	3,58 94,359	3,589,436
		Total..	121,966	6,03,30,286	6,033,029
North ..	Trade with Northern India and Calcutta.	Imports ..	29,810	1,98,43,123	1,984,312
		Exports ..	19,183	64,70,603	647,060
		Total..	48,993	263,13,726	2,631,372
South ..	Trade with Madras & Hydrabad (Deccan.)	Imports ..	1,078	4,93,984	49,398
		Exports ..	1,538	4,90,819	49,082
		Total..	2,616	9,84,803	98,480
East ..	Trade with East Coast Districts and south-west Bengal.	Imports ..	10,756	16,47,601	164,760
		Exports ..	10,610	5,49,131	54,913
		Total..	21,366	21,96,732	219,673

The great preponderance of the trade with Bombay over that with countries on the north, south, and east, is only the natural consequence of the opening of the railway to Bombay during the year. Our commerce with the west had been gaining yearly over the Mirzapore trade. The excess of the Bombay over the Calcutta trade, is this year greater than ever. But commerce with the north (Mirzapore, and the Ganges valley) will be keener as soon as the railway shall open for traffic to Jubbulpore in August next.

219. The principal articles entering into the trade above described may be thus shown:—

	Imports.		Exports.	
	Maunds.	*Rupees.*	*Maunds.*	*Rupees.*
Cotton	89,611	21,26,611	398,762	90,89,947
Sugar	217,345	28,53,061	75,680	10,65,688
Salt	866,037	40,51,505	56,165	381,821
Grain	439,131	11,74,292	803,411	28,19,587
Oilseeds	66,916	2,43,201	40,523	1,74,143
Metals and hardware	316,820	47,05,089	43,394	11,56,965
English piece-goods	58,402	66,15,671	11,440	14,96,631
Miscellaneous European goods ...	57,404	34,90,887	25,361	18,79,542
Country cloth ...	20,056	17,36,588	52,893	56,05,898
Silk and silk cacoons	1,276	11,25,150	417	88,271
Horses, cattle and sheep No.	134,497	14,70,066	No. 30,085	5,58,503
Cocoanuts	61,860	5,84,314	4,066	58,663

There has been a slight falling off in the export of cotton as compared with the previous year, but a small increase compared with the two preceding years, as may be seen from the following comparison:—

	Years.	lbs.	Value in £.
Gross export of cotton..	1863-64 ...	30,546,772	1,249,333
	1864-65 ...	30,710,722	949,117
	1865-66 ...	36,730,916	1,308,358
	1866-67 ...	32,698,484	908,095

Of the quantity exported in 1866-67, there were 15,320,626lbs. registered by the railway at stations within the Central Provinces; 13,875,384lbs. crossed the frontier on carts westwards into Berar and Kandeish, in the direction of railway stations on the line in those territories; and of the small remainder, half went down the Mahanuddy to Cuttack, and half to Mirzapore. While the sugar import trade with Mirzapore has not decreased, that with Bombay has quadrupled within the year, and promises to increase. Salt shows a slight increase in quantity with a considerable decrease in price. Both import and export of grain are considerably above previous years; but while the cheap inferior grains, such as millet, are imported, the more highly priced, corn and rice, are exported. The import of English piece-goods which fell in the previous year, has now slightly exceeded the highest figure reached in years antecedent. The export of country manufactured cloth has again decreased, though the decrease is but slight. The silk import trade has doubled within the year. There has been a slight decrease in the number of cattle imported. On the whole, there has been a net addition to the trade generally of 30,000 tons in weight of goods imported and exported; and in declared value, even in a year of lower prices as compared with the previous year, there has been an increase amounting to one million sterling.

Section IX.—Hospitals and Dispensaries.

Number of Dispensaries.

220. In previous reports the progress made from year to year in providing Dispensary institutions at the head-quarter stations or at principal towns in the different districts, was noticed. At the close of 1866 there were 18 main, and 33 branch Dispensaries in full working order. The number of branch Dispensaries has recently, under the sanction of the Supreme Government been increased to 38. Buildings for 16 more branch Dispensaries at selected towns, are either under construction, or about to be taken in hand. Their cost is defrayable from funds raised by local subscription, and by grants from municipal revenues.

221. The difficulty in the way of establishing dispensary institutions has consisted, not so much in the absence of support from the Native community,—for this has been liberally offered wherever called for, but

with the scarcity of trained Native Doctors. To meet this want the Supreme Government has taken into favourable consideration a scheme for opening a Medical School at Nagpore for the training of men of the country to the profession of medicine. Such men are more likely to win the confidence of the people than foreigners, who moreover look upon this part of India with some disfavour. The scale of salaries allowed to Native Doctors is comparatively small. It might, perhaps, suffice for a native practising near his home; but it fails to satisfy people of other Provinces, and to retain their services at a distance from their own country. A part of the old jail building at Nagpore has been assigned to the medical school, and the contiguity of the City Hospital will prove an advantage in the practical teaching of the pupils.

Number of patients treated.

222. The number of patients applying for relief at all dispensaries during the past year, compared with the numbers in previous years, will be seen from the following figures:—

	Years.				
	1862.	1863.	1864.	1865.	1866.
Number of male patients,	33,695	44,497	59,800	79,782	105,454
„ female „	8,410	13,009	16,882	24,201	33,515
	42,105	57,506	75,962	103,983	138,969

The increase has been spread fairly over all districts;—but in proportion to the population of the different districts, a much larger number apply for treatment at the dispensaries in Nagpore, Jubbulpore, Saugor and Raepore.

Finances of Dispensaries.

223. Dispensary finances show some improvement; the receipts having risen from Rs. 72,815 (£7,281) in the previous year, to Rs. 95,391 (£9,539) in the year under report. Of this latter sum, the amount contributed by Government was Rs. 36,639 (£3,664), the remainder being raised by private subscriptions, by grants from local funds, and by interest on invested capital. The expenditure on the other hand rose from Rs. 49,976 (£4,997) in 1865 to Rs. 63,305 (£6,330) in the year 1866. The average cost per case treated was Rs. 0-7-5 (11½*d*). The balance to the credit of dispensary Committees at the close of the year was, in cash Rs. 16,086 (£1,608) and in Government Securities Rs. 15,000 (£1,500).

224. In future years the apportionment of dispensary expenditure between the State and Local resources will be regulated on the principle laid down by the Supreme Government in the beginning of the present year. The main feature of that arrangement is that all charges on account of professional supervision, such as Surgeon's allowance, Native Doctors' salaries, and the like, will be defrayed from the general

revenues; while all other expenses on account of Dressers, Compounders, hospital servants, diet of patients, Indian drugs, and the like, will be borne by local contributions. Under this apportionment, about three-fifths of the whole cost of dispensaries will fall upon the State treasury, and two-fifths on local resources.

Vaccination department.

225. The operations of the special Vaccination department working in the Nagpore and Chindwara districts may be thus shown for the past and previous year:—

	1865-66.	1866-67.
Total number of people vaccinated ..	4,767	22,367
Number of successful cases ..	2,666	19,584

These figures show that progress has been made, both in the number operated on and in the percentage of successful cases. In the previous year the proportion of successful cases was 55½ per cent, in the past year it was 87½. In last year's report it was said that the people in the interior showed some reluctance in submitting their children to be vaccinated, notwithstanding all the explanation offered by the Superintendent and other Officers of Government. During the past season, however, a perceptible change took place, very soon after the return from leave of Doctor Brake, the Superintendent. Having reorganized his establishment and laid a foundation for a good supply of lymph at Nagpore, the Superintendent proceeded into the interior, vaccinating all who came forward, but still at places meeting with indifference or passive opposition. At length small-pox attacked a few towns, and soon became epidemic; the Superintendent here stepped in, and vaccinated all the children who were found unprotected. These escaped. In not one instance where a child was vaccinated, was it attacked by the disease. The news of this immunity soon spread to neighbouring villages and it then became a common occurrence for the Superintendent to be invited to visit particular villages, and, to quote the words of Doctor Brake, he was "frequently quite mobbed by the inhabitants of large towns and villages, all anxious that their children should not be forgotten."

All castes seemed to have thrown off all dislike or suspicion. The sex and age of the persons vaccinated are thus shown:—

Sex ...	Male ...	11,318	
	Female ...	11,049	
			22,367
Age ...	Under 1 year ...	5,213	
	From 1 to 5 years	13,656	
	„ 5 to 10 „	3,013	
	„ 10 to 15 „	390	
	„ 15 to 20 „	80	
	„ 20 to 25 „	4	
	„ above 25 „	11	
			22,367

Thus in the third year of operations a good beginning has been made and confidence established. Upon this basis the results in future years may be looked forward to with some confidence.

Lunatic Asylums.

226. The Lunatic Asylums at Nagpore and Jubbulpore were in full working order during the year 1866. A manual of rules for the management of these institutions was drawn up and prescribed for adoption. The admissions to the Nagpore Lunatic Asylum during the year 1866 were 39 males, and 7 females, making with the 33 remaining from the previous year, 79 under treatment during the year. Of these, 13 were cured and discharged, 1 relieved, 1 escaped, and 13 died. About two-thirds of the daily average number in the Asylum were employed in spinning thread, or in weaving coarse cloth, or in out-door labour in the gardens. The total cost of this institution during the year was Rs. 4,853 (£485), thus making an average cost for each lunatic of Rs. 91 (£9) per annum. At the Jubbulpore Asylum the admissions were 32 males and 3 females, making, with the 8 remaining from the previous year, 43 under treatment. Of these, 10 were discharged cured, and 2 relieved; 14 died. Arrangements for providing suitable employment for the inmates of this Asylum are as yet imperfect. The total cost of the institution during the year was Rs. 1,791 (£179), or at an average for each lunatic of Rs. 128 (£13).

Leper Asylum.

227. The Nagpore Leper Asylum shows 33 admissions, of whom 13 were relieved and discharged, 11 have died, and 9 remain. The institution is entirely supported from local resources, and cost Rs. 880 (£88) in the year 1866.

Section X.—Public Health and Sanitation.

Vital Statistics.

228. It was explained in last year's report that the arrangements made for the registration of vital statistics were not so complete as could be wished, and no detailed notice of the result was offered. But the compilation of the statistics for a second year, makes it possible to offer the following general remarks on the subject.

Mode of collection.

229. The agency employed for the purposes of this registration is, in the larger towns, the Municipal Police; and in selected rural tracts, the District Police, and Putwarees, (village accountants); that is to say, registration has not been attempted for the Central Provinces as a whole, but for parts and sub-divisions all over the country, where it was ordinarily practicable. The results obtained through such an agency must be less reliable for the rural tracts, than for municipal towns, owing to the extent of the

area to be supervised, and to the difficulty of securing the report of all cases of births and deaths. Thus the registration of the past two years must be received with some allowance for possible error. And there is this difference between the two years, that in the former (1865-66) the results were deduced on the assumed population of the particular tracts or towns, in the latter on the regular census enumeration.

General death-rate.

230. The registration then for 1865-66 gave a death-rate of 33 per thousand souls among the urban population in 23 towns; and a death-rate of 26 per thousand among the rural population in 14 selected tracts, or 28 per thousand on the urban and rural population taken together. The deaths in that year were not separately given for males and females; or for infants and adults. For the past year (1866-67) the registration was spread over a wider area, including 104 towns, and 35 rural circles, taking in above a third of the total population of the country. Still, it has not been possible to arrange everywhere for the registry of births as well as deaths; but where such statistics have been collected, the results will be found among other deductions in the following abstract:—

	Urban.	*Rural.*
Deaths per 1,000 of population	25·09	12·76
Births, „ „ „	21·73	16·04
Inhabitants to 1 death	39·99	78·72
Female births to 100 male births	86·70	87·60
Female deaths to „ deaths	76·77	77·61
Female population to 100 males	95·40	95·40
Infant deaths to 100 adult deaths	66·18	98·77
Deaths from fever per 100 deaths	51·98	52·23
„ Cholera „	9·70	11·70
„ Small-pox „	3·12	7·38
„ Bowel diseases „	8·84	9·61
„ other diseases „	23·39	15·58
„ accidents or violence	1·97	2·50

Elements of error.

231. It were unnecessary perhaps to point out that the above statistics for the rural tracts are still not wholly reliable, for the reasons already advanced. But for the figures relating to urban population, a fair degree of accuracy may be claimed; with the single reservation perhaps as to births, which it is reasonable to presume would not at the outset be reported in all instances. Some doubts, too, may be raised as to the small proportion of infant, as compared with adult deaths. But on these and other points it would be hazardous in the present state of our knowledge of Indian vital statistics to pronounce one way or the other. It is lamentable to see so large a proportion as 52 and 53 per cent of the deaths, from fever,

in the town and rural tracts respectively. The 9¾ and 11¾ per cent of deaths from Cholera are due to the epidemic which prevailed in the districts of Sumbulpore, Raepore, Chanda, Bhundara, and the Upper Godavery District. Small-pox seems to have been more severe in the northern than in the southern and eastern districts, though there are few places which have entirely escaped its annual ravages. Out of 41,041 cases in which the causes of death have been registered there were 175 suicides, 429 deaths from accidental causes, 85 lives destroyed by wild beasts, and 173 by the bite of venomous snakes and other reptiles, and lastly 96 deaths from homicidal violence.

Deaths from different diseases.

232. The sanitary system established in towns and villages in these Provinces, was fully explained in last year's report under this Section. Wherever there is a resident Magistrate, honorary or stipendiary, there sanitation is enforced under the authority of Act V. of 1861. In the larger towns and cities it is regulated by bye-laws framed under the Municipal Acts XVIII. of 1864, and XV. of 1867; and in the Military Cantonments under Act XXII. of 1864. In scattered villages extending over a wide area it is a more difficult matter; but even there a rough conservancy system was introduced, and an actual commencement made in the previous year (1865-66). A translation of a set of "Village Conservancy Rules" has been placed in the hands of landholders; and occasional inspection by the District Officers suffices generally to secure a measure of cleanliness and observance of sanitary laws, which by degrees will become adequate to the condition of localities in the open country.

Sanitation.

233. It may be unnecessary to repeat here what has already been said in Section VII. Chapter IV. above in respect of Municipal improvements generally, or what has been described in Section IX. of this Chapter in respect of vaccination operations. That the public health has been benefitted by each and all of these measures may, perhaps, be fairly assumed; and though too much accuracy cannot be claimed for the mortuary tables above analysed, still it is a fact that they indicate some measure of improvement not altogether attributable to accident.

Improved health of the people.

234. The prohibition against certain annual religious gatherings within these Provinces,—whereat in past years Cholera first broke out, and spread far and wide in the track of retiring pilgrims, as explained in last year's report,—still continues to be observed, with the best results. But, notwithstanding such quarantine arrangements as could be made on the eastern frontier, the disease last year was brought into Sumbulpore by a few families of the Native Regiment there stationed, who marched up through Cuttack where it prevailed. From Sumbulpore it spread over the whole Chutteesgurh plateau and down into the

Prohibition of certain fairs.

Nagpore plain and along the country of the Godavery. The northern districts entirely escaped.

Wells in Chutteesgurh.

235. The measures for improving public health in the Chutteesgurh country by sinking wells, and thus securing a supply of pure drinking water, are being vigorously prosecuted. The latest returns show that, since these operations were begun, 296 wells have been completed, 323 more are nearly ready, and 2,332 are in progress. Grants of revenue free land are being sanctioned for landholders, who thus supply their villages with water. The very great boon which these wells will confer can be appreciated, when it is remembered that almost the whole of the population of that part of the country have to drink water from ponds, which by the end of the hot season become foul with all manner of organic matter.

Section XI.—Improvement in the breed of Horned Cattle, Horses, and Sheep.

Cattle breeding.

236. Although cattle-breeding is common to almost every district in these Provinces, and large herds are kept by many of the wealthy landholders and native gentry; yet comparatively little attention is paid to the main canons of stock breeding. In some parts this neglect has resulted in a considerable deterioration of the local breed, necessitating large annual importations from abroad of plough and draught cattle. This condition of the cattle resources of the country, to which much of its agricultural backwardness was due, early attracted the attention of Mr. Temple. What has been done in the way of introducing bulls of a superior breed from Hissar, Mysore, and other places, has been fully explained in previous reports. The measure of success up to the present time has not been great, and some years of persistent effort must be expended before any permanent or general improvement can be effected. There are many difficulties besides in the way. It is held by some, not altogether without reason, that the bulls hitherto imported, are too large for the cows of the country. Perhaps, this may be true, so far as the small ordinary cows are concerned. But the large bulls might, by being crossed with a few good sized cows, lay the foundation for a large breed of cattle. Then there are the prejudices of the natives. They do not like large sized cattle, because it takes so much more to feed them, and their diminutive bullocks quite suffice to draw the little carts of the country. But in some districts a very fair beginning has been made, and some very promising calves of the previous seasons are growing up. There is no doubt, however, that the Hissar bull is much too large in the bone to cross with ordinary cows of these parts. The smaller Mysore, or Berar bull is the more suitable. Arrangements are accordingly being made for returning the Hissar bulls to the Government stud, and their place will be taken by the smaller kinds abovementioned.

Horse breeding.

237. Of the ten Government Stallions posted at selected stations at the close of 1865-66, there were two condemned as useless in the Nerbudda division, and one died at Jubbulpore. The total number of mares served during the year was 130.

Sheep breeding.

238. Sheep-breeding experiments have been carried on by Local Committees in some districts,—in others some foreign rams of good breed have been purchased, and made over to breeders. In the eastern districts of Chutteesgurh where sheep breeding is practised on a large scale for exportation, no measures of this kind appeared to be necessary, the local breed of sheep being also of a superior kind. The Dumoh Committee's farm showed some advance, in consequence of the improvements introduced the previous season, and the Deputy Commissioner is now prepared to supply good rams to other districts. At Nagpore the Local Committee have established a farm, on which they have some imported rams and ewes from Lahore. At Saugor a trial is being given to the Bikaneer breeds of sheep introduced during the past season.

Section XII.—Elephant Catching.

Capture of wild elephants.

239. In last year's report it was stated the khedda (or elephant catching) establishment, which began operations in the hills near our Eastern frontier, had during the year 1865-66 captured 30 elephants. Further success has been obtained during the year under report; 47 elephants were caught in November 1866, and 40 more in March 1867. Of the animals taken in November, 17 died before they were fully tamed; the inclemency of the season, and a peculiar disease which attacked the animals while they were under training at Ruttunpore, in Chutteesgurh, appears to account for this large mortality. Of the elephants captured in March 1867, but very few have died.

Transfer of the khedda to Cuttack.

240. When the establishment of an elephant khedda at Belaspore was first proposed, it was supposed that there were about 200 elephants in the forests, and that there would be two years' work for the khedda. The establishment has now been two years at Belaspore; 117 elephants have been caught, and it is estimated that there are about fifty elephants left in the jungles, scattered in small herds of five or six animals, for the capture of which it would not be remunerative to maintain a khedda. Accordingly, the elephant catching establishment has, under the orders of the Supreme Government, been transferred to Cuttack.

Results of the khedda operations.

241. The financial results of the two years' elephant catching may be thus shown:—

Cr.	Rupees.	Dr.	Rupees.
43 full grown elephants reserved for Govt. purposes, valued at	66,000	Total expenditure on khedda operations from the commencement to the transfer of the establishment	80,000
19 under-sized young elephants sold by auction ..	17,100		
1 full-sized elephant made over to the Settlement department, valued at ..	2,000		
19 under-sized young elephants remaining to be sold, expected to fetch Rs. 600 each	11,400		
35 elephants died during their training	0	Difference, being estimated net profit on the khedda	16,500
117 elephants.			
Total, ..	96,500 (£9,650)		96,500 (£9,650)

It thus appears that the khedda establishment will have yielded a net profit of Rs. 16,500 (£1,650); that it will have secured 44 full-grown elephants for the Government service at a time when the demand for these useful animals is particularly great; and that it will have, to a considerable extent, freed the Belaspore district of wild elephants which used to do much damage to the crops, and prevented cultivation over considerable areas of rich country.

CHAPTER XV.

CONCLUSION.

242. It remains for me to notice the assistance specially rendered during the year by individual officers of this Administration. The opinions expressed in the subjoined paragraphs are based mainly on the remarks recorded by Mr. Temple, when he reviewed the services of the several Officers shortly before he left these Provinces.

243. The Judicial Commissioner, Mr. J. S. Campbell, has, by strict and constant supervision, maintained a good professional standard among Judicial Officers. Under his direction, the Courts are increasing in popularity; and their action is sufficiently prompt. Mr. R. E. Egerton officiated with entire efficiency as Judicial Commissioner for six months of the year. As Commissioner of Nagpore he set an excellent example of divisonal supervision. Mr. J. W. Neill has done good service as Registrar to the Judicial Commissioner's Court.

244. Mr. C. E. Bernard has continued to be a most useful Secretary in all Civil Departments. My thanks are specially due to him for drawing up this report. Lieutenant Bloomfield has done much good work as Assistant Secretary.

245. The office of Settlement Commissioner was filled during the whole year by myself. Among the divisional Commissioners,—Major Hector Mackenzie's supervision over all branches of the administration, has been of first-rate quality. Mr. A C. Lyall gave high promise of efficiency during the six months he officiated as Commissioner of Nagpore. He has also rendered much valuable assistance in editing the "Central Provinces' Gazetteer" and in preparing a Manual of Laws applicable to these Provinces. Colonel J. K. Spence has always been known to be a good Judicial Officer. And this year he filled very successfully the post of President of the Jubbulpore Exhibition Committee.

246. Among the Deputy Commissioners, Mr. Temple selected

Colonel J. N. H. Maclean.
Mr. M. Low.

} and

Captain A. B. Cumberlege.
Mr. W. B. Jones.

as having done the best during the year. The following Deputy Com-

missioners also deserve mention, as having done very well:—

Captain C. B. Lucie Smith.	Mr. J. W. Chisholm.
„ H. F. Newmarch.	Mr. H. Read.
„ M. P. Ricketts.	

247. Among the Assistant Commissioners, specially good work has been done by—

Captain J. L. Loch.	Captain H. I. Lugard.
„ H. C. E. Ward.	Lieutenant J. W. Macdougall.
Lieutenant M. M. Bowie.	Mr. G. J. Nicholls.
Mr. J. Beddy.	Mr. T. Drysdale.
Lieutenant J. Temple.	

248. Among the Settlement Officers—

Mr. A. J. Lawrence.	Mr. A. M. Russell.
Mr. J. F. K. Hewitt.	Lieutenant J. Forsyth.
Mr. J. W. Chisholm.	

have done excellent work.

249. Major F. L. Magniac, who was absent on furlough during the previous year, has now restored the Nagpore Small Cause Court to more than its former popularity. His services as Registrar General of Assurances have been most useful in organizing the Registration Department. The lamented death of Mr. F. Macnaghten, who had for years presided with much success over the Jubbulpore Small Cause Court, was a loss to the Judicial Department.

250. Captain E. M. Playfair has discharged satisfactorily the heavy judicial and miscellaneous duties pertaining to the large Cantonment of Kamptee. Major H. F. Bartlett has also done very well, as Cantonment Magistrate of Saugor.

251. Among the Extra-Assistant Commissioners the following have been useful:—

Mr. F. St. C. Williams.	Tajoodeen Hossein.
Mr. W. Munton.	Mr. S. Hennessy.
Oulad Hossein.	Fazlool Kadir.
Azeezoodeen.	Poorshuttum Rao.
Ashfaq Hossein.	

252. Of the officers engaged in ministerial duties, the services of Mr. G. Barclay, Superintendent of the Secretariat, have been especially useful;—commendation is also due to Mr. W. A. Russell and Mr. J. S. Hannagan, Head Clerks of the Nerbudda and Jubbulpore Divisional Offices.

253. The Inspector General of Police, Lieutenant Colonel H. D. Taylor, has directed his important department with care, tact, and ability. The relations of the Police Force to the Magistrates are correctly defined and properly maintained; and its organization is becoming popular with the people.

Of the Officers subordinate to the Inspector General, the following were commended by Mr. Temple:—

Captain F. G. Steuart.	Mr. J. M. Berrill.
Lieut.-Col. G. G. Moxon.	Mr. M. P. Hanken.
Captain W. J. Morris.	Captain J. D. Vallance.
" H. Fraser.	Mr. R. Hamilton.
Mr. J. Higgins.	

254. In the Educational Department, Major P. Dods has performed his duties as Director with zeal and efficiency. Mr. Colin Browning, Inspector of the Southern Circle, has by his diligent and careful supervision given an impulse to education in the Nagpore country. Lieutenant G. H. Trevor, besides performing his educational duties, filled with complete success the post of Secretary to the Jubbulpore Exhibition Committee.

255. The Inspector of Prisons and Dispensaries, Dr. R. T. Abbott, has continued to direct satisfactorily the management of these institutions.

256. In the department of Account, Mr. W. Biss, the Deputy Accountant General, has conducted business efficiently; and has promoted the prompt and punctual preparation of all accounts. Mr. G. W. Cline, L. L. D., has effectively directed the operations of the Nagpore Currency Circle.

257. In the Public Works Department, the Office of Chief Engineer was held by Colonel W. Maxwell for nine months of the year. He has now left these Provinces. But he materially raised the professional standard of the department; and the many practical and useful reforms which he introduced will remain after him. It is due to his good sense and energy that brick has given place to stone in all public buildings of the Nagpore country. Major C. Pollard, though joining the Chief Engineership late in the year, has already proved himself a first-rate Chief Engineer. Major F. Haig, R. E., has returned with recovered health to the Godavery Works, which he is now pushing on with his accustomed zeal and energy. Captain C. J. Meade, Superintending Engineer, is doing much to educate in certain branches of their profession the Engineers of the Southern Circle.

Among the Executive and Assistant Engineers, the following have done good service during the year:—

Mr. J. W. O'Donnell.	Mr. H. Bell.
Mr. R. Tyndall.	Mr. F. L. O'Callaghan.
Lieutenant W. M. Roberts.	Mr. E. Johnston.
Captain H. R. Faber.	Mr. J. Whiting.

Captain B. J. Prior, Controller of Public Works Accounts, has rigorously maintained punctuality and order in the accounts of the Public Works and of Local Funds.

258. In the Railway Department, Major St. J. Hovenden and Lieutenant G. W. Oldham, Royal Engineers, have rendered much assistance to this Administration in all matters connected with the progress of railways through the Central Provinces.

259. In the Forest Department, Major G. F. Pearson performed with all his usual energy and knowledge the important duties of Conservator. Lieutenants J. C. Doveton and W. Douglas ably and successfully managed their respective forest divisions.

260. Mr. H. Rivett-Carnac, Cotton Commissioner of the Central Provinces, has with tact and energy instituted many measures which will eventually improve the cotton cultivation in these parts. His zeal to protect the interests of the cotton trade deserves much praise.

261. Major J. Ashburner and Captain C. B. Lucie Smith have done important service to the country and to the Government, by their arduous and successful search for coal in their respective districts.

262. Mr. W. E. Money and Mr. F. W. Vere have continued during the year their excellent supervision of the Customs Department in these Provinces.

Mr. G. M. Jones, Mr. T. Martin and Mr. H. Ives, also deserve mention as zealous and successful Collectors of Customs.

263. Mr. C. W. Hutchinson, Chief Inspector of Post Offices, has done much to improve the postal service, and to extend its usefulness in these Provinces. Mr. F. J. Jordan, Superintendent of Mail Carts, has also rendered good assistance in securing the prompt passage of the European and Bombay Mails across this part of India.

264. In the Professional Survey department, Captain R. E. Oakes, Major J. Macdonald, and Colonel G. H. Saxton have ably executed a considerable amount of useful work.

265. Among the Medical Officers, Dr. S. C. Townsend has performed excellent service as Superintendent of the Nagpore Central Jail, and as Sanitary Officer of the City of Nagpore. Dr. John Brake has, by dint of personal zeal and tact, made the Vaccination department popular with the people of the Nagpore Province. Among the remain-

ing Civil Surgeons:—

Dr. W. R. Rice.	Dr. W. R. Grylls.
Dr. J. Law.	Dr. H. A. Kidd.
Dr. D. W. Trimnell.	Mr. T. King.

have done well.

Mr. R. D. Nuthall and Lieut. J. Johnstone performed with energy and zeal, amidst some personal danger, the duties of Superintendent of elephant kheddas.

266. Most, if not all the Officers mentioned in the foregoing paragraphs have on former occasions received Mr. Temple's acknowledgments for their good service. Many of them owe their professional efficiency and success to his teaching or to the system he organized. I would conclude this Chapter by expressing my earnest hope that the healthy tone and the high sense of public duty, which have grown up under Mr. Temple's administration, may long continue to characterize the Officers of the Central Provinces.

NAGPORE:
The 30th June 1867.

J. H. MORRIS.

ABSTRACT STATEMENT of Receipts and Disbursements of the Central Provinces for the year 1866-67.

Receipts.	Receipts during the year 1866-67. Rs.	A.	P.	Total. Rs.	A.	P.
I.—Land Revenue	66,62,977	0	0			
III.—Forest	2,37,473	0	0			
IV.—Abkaree	10,02,478	0	0			
V.—Income Tax	2,882	0	0			
VI.—Customs	40,850	0	0			
VII.—Salt	15,57,915	0	0			
IX.—Stamps	5,84,115	0	0			
XIII.—Law and Justice ..	1,58,970	0	0			
XIV.—Police	1,41,093	0	0			
XVIII.—Miscellaneous ..	54,664	0	0			
				1,04,43,156	0	0
Service Funds.						
Police Superannuation Fund ..	..	..	..	30,044	0	0
Local Funds.						
Ferry Fund	85,257	0	0			
Municipal Fund	8,17,134	0	0			
Nuzzool Fund	66,949	0	0			
Pound Fund	40,153	0	0			
Road Fund	2,09,311	0	0			
Staging Bungalow Fund ..	6,583	0	0			
Chowkeedaree Fund ..	18,850	0	0			
Chunda Fund	9,675	0	0			
General Police Fund ..	6,907	0	0			
School Fund	1,43,431	0	0			
Dispensary Fund ..	23,111	0	0			
Putwarree Fund ..	1,48,043	0	0			
Tulsanna Fund ..	62,005	0	0			
District Dak Fund ..	30,650	0	0			
Malikanna Fund	4,575	0	0			
				16,75,664	0	0
Total ..	..	..	..	1,21,54,864	0	0

Disbursements.	Disbursements during the year 1866-67. Rs.	A.	P.	Total.		
2. Interest on Service Funds and other accounts	6,261	0	0			
3. Allowances, Refunds and Drawbacks	1,13,328	0	0			
4. Land Revenue—Revenue Dept. ..	12,37,672	0	0			
5. Forest	1,48,654	0	0			
6. Abkaree	26,022	0	0			
9. Salt	4,14,778	0	0			
11. Stamps	21,252	0	0			
16. Administration and Public Depts. ..	3,71,679	0	0			
17. Law and Justice	6,66,094	0	0			
18. Police	12,74,491	0	0			
20. Education, Science and Art ..	1,00,949	0	0			
21. Ecclesiastical	33,305	0	0			
22. Medical Services	1,31,287	0	0			
23. Stationery and Printing	60,735	0	0			
24. Political Agencies and other Foreign Services	1,015	0	0			
25. Allowances and Assignments under Treaties and Engagements ..	8,70,520	0	0			
26. Miscellaneous	1,00,855	0	0			
27. Superannuation, Retired and Compensionate allowances	1,22,445	0	0			
				58,30,293	0	0
Service Funds.						
Police Superannuation Fund ..				2,422	0	0
Local Funds.						
Ferry Fund	1,14,093	0	0			
Municipal Fund	8,58,469	0	0			
Nuzzool Fund	63,330	0	0			
Pound Fund	44,998	0	0			
Road Fund	2,29,360	0	0			
Staging Bungalow Fund ..	4,117	0	0			
Chowkeedaree Fund ..	20,650	0	0			
Chunda Fund	9,450	0	0			
General Police Fund	4,460	0	0			
School Fund	1,70,989	0	0			
Dispensary Fund	15,516	0	0			
Tulsanna Fund	27,611	0	0			
District Dak Fund	1,874	0	0			
Putwarree Fund	1,35,211	0	0			
Malikanna Fund	4,336	0	0			
				17,03,045	0	0
Total ..	..	..	..	75,35,760	0	0

NOTE.—Rs. 1,00,951 on account of value of timber supplied by the Forest Department to the Department of Public Works, included in the Statement submitted by the Conservator of Forests as revenue of that Department, is not included in the item of Rs. 2,37,473 exhibited in this Statement, the same being adjusted by a transfer entry in the books of the Department Public Works.

DEPUTY ACCOUNTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
NAGPORE:
The 14th June 1867.

G. RAMIAH,
Offg. Deputy Accountant General,
Central Provinces.

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